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Equipment tainted with explosive Lab tests cast doubt on IRA convictions

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

AT LEAST 12 people may have been wrongly convicted of terrorist offences on the strength of tests at a government laboratory where equipment was contaminated with explosives, the Home Office disclosed yesterday.

Michael Howard has ordered an investigation into a series of bombing convictions, which could include some of the most high-profile IRA trials of the past seven years.

Among the cases expected to be reviewed are those of Robert Fryers and Hugh Jack, who were found guilty of conspiring to cause explosions and Sean McNulty, who was jailed for 25 years for bombing oil and gas installations.

The Home Secretary called for the review after traces of the explosive RDX, a substance found in Semtex, were discovered in a key piece of machinery two months ago when a scientist split a sample during a routine check at the Forensic Explosives Laboratory near Sevenoaks in Kent.

Experts said last night that the chance of contamination of samples was minute, but they admitted that the potential for a miscarriage of justice could not be discounted.

The disclosure is a big embarrassment for the Government, especially as doubts over scientific evidence have been a key element in a series of miscarriages of justice including the cases of the Birmingham Six, the Maguire Seven and Judith Ward.

Mr Howard said yesterday that the prospects of a miscarriage of justice was extremely

small, but he was determined not to take the risk. "We are going to have an independent investigation to make sure that if there is any case in which a suspect sample of this kind formed part of the evidence it is looked at again."

The Home Secretary was criticised, however, for making his announcement in a written parliamentary answer rather than in a Commons statement. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said he would demand an emergency statement today. He said: "It is preposterous that Mr Howard chose to slip this out by way of a written answer rather than making a full statement to MPs. His handling of this has been inept given seriousness of the issue."

The Home Office was unable to provide exact details of the number of convictions that might be affected. Thirty-eight people have been jailed since 1989 under the Explosives Substances Act, although some cases would have involved explosives other than Semtex and would have been supported by other evidence. In his written answer, Mr Howard admitted that a number of terrorist cases being referred back to the Court of Appeal.

"The explosives contamination involved a small amount — not more than 30 microgrammes — of the explosive RDX, one of the main components of the explosive Semtex," he said.

"It was detected in a part of a laboratory centrifuge which

was probably contaminated on its arrival at the Forensic Explosives Laboratory in 1989. By normal standards the explosive detected was tiny, but nevertheless should not have been there. There is a small theoretical possibility that any casework sample showing RDX traces may have been affected by the centrifuge contamination."

Brian Caddy, professor of forensic science at Strathclyde University, is to carry out the inquiry, which will look at the chances of samples being contaminated, the paperwork of all cases in which RDX traces were found, and the extent to which forensic evidence helped to secure a conviction.

The laboratory, which is the only one of its kind, has carried out tests on some 500 separate samples taken from suspects, their property and the scene of explosions since 1989.

A number of tests proved negative and others led to no convictions, but findings of traces of RDX are believed to have formed part of the prosecution case in a series of prosecutions.

Pat Doherty, the vice-president of Sinn Féin, said: "It seems incredible that the same method of forensic testing can be used for seven years without it being scrutinised. Michael Howard's admission that these cases go back over seven years also raises the question of how long did the British Government know that evidence in these cases was false."

IRA cases, page 2



President Chirac blows kisses to the crowd as he rides with the Queen in an open landau to Buckingham Palace on the first day of his state visit

M Chirac takes a train to a beef lunch

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Field of the Cloth of Gold it was not. But, given the haughty indifference of capital cities to foreign nabobs, President Chirac of France attracted a very respectable crowd when he arrived in London yesterday for a three-day state visit.

Several thousand people lined the Mall, sumptuously decked out in giant Union flags and Tricolours, as the President and the Queen rode from Horse Guards to Buckingham Palace to a private lunch of Scottish beef.

M Chirac had chosen to travel by scheduled Eurostar train, thus becoming the first head of state to make a formal visit to Britain by rail, and it

arrived at Waterloo at 12.12, one minute early, to the relief of all concerned.

M and Mme Chirac were greeted at platform 24 by Princess Margaret, who welcomed them with a breezy "bonjour". After meeting the necessary railway officials, the royal party travelled in two cars to Horse Guards and the full-scale official welcome.

Horse Guards is more or less permanently set out with thousands of seats for tourists to watch the Trooping the Colour ceremony. Yesterday only a few hundred of the seats were filled, making it look like a second-division football stadium when the first team is playing away.

President Chirac greeted the Queen with a long, slow

handshake and some intimate conversation. His wife, a footstep behind, did not curtsey, although a momentary twitch in her left knee suggested that she had at least thought about it.

The Queen wore a lavender blue wool coat with swing back and mandarin-style collar. Palace officials will never name the designer although yesterday's was undoubtedly by Ian Thomas. The French made no secret of the fact that Mme Chirac was wearing Karl Lagerfeld: a beige and ivory tweed jacket worn over a black crepe skirt with handbag and straw hat.

Accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, M Chirac inspected a guard of honour provided by the Irish Guards,

with a large troop of the Household Cavalry drawn up behind for effect. The band of Irish Guards is a competent ensemble, but it takes a French band to infuse *La Marseillaise* with the élan, brio and verve that makes it such a great national anthem.

M and Mme Chirac were then presented to the usual dignitaries, from John Major yesterday's was undoubtedly by Ian Thomas. The French made no secret of the fact that Mme Chirac was wearing Karl Lagerfeld: a beige and ivory tweed jacket worn over a black crepe skirt with handbag and straw hat.

Accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, M Chirac inspected a guard of honour provided by the Irish Guards,

and Paddy Ashdown and he and Mme Chirac paid a 15-minute call on Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Last night the Queen entertained the Chiracs to a state banquet in the ballroom at Buckingham Palace, where the main course was rack of lamb served with spring vegetables and asparagus.

The Queen appeared to rule out any British pull-out from Europe when she told M. Chirac: "We will continue to stand with you in the United Nations, the European Union and Nato, as a partner with world interests." M Chirac replied: "Franco-British friendship must be a cornerstone of the construction of Europe, on which the future of our children depends."

Dissidents held in horror cell

By MICHAEL DYNES

TRIBAL activists, opposed to the operations of Shell in Nigeria, are being held in horrific prison conditions.

Nineteen Ogoni detainees, awaiting trial for their alleged involvement in the murder of tribal leaders, have been held for two years in Port Harcourt prison. Documents smuggled out and seen by *The Times*, bear testimony to medieval conditions.

The revelation will embarrass the Anglo-Dutch company which is today holding its annual general meetings.

Nigeria 'frame-up', page 15

Labour clash over dole for 12 months

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A NEW row has developed in the Shadow Cabinet over whether a Labour government should again make unemployment benefit available for 12 months.

Chris Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, is pressing for the new Job Seekers Allowance, which replaces unemployment benefit and reduces it to six months from this October, to be paid over a full year.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, has argued that the move, estimated to cost £150 million, is too expensive and has asked for it to be removed from a policy document which Mr Smith had prepared. The document, which is said to include a range of welfare to work proposals, has been put on hold and will not go to Labour's national policy forum this weekend for approval with six policy documents. It will instead merely go forward as a discussion paper.

Mr Smith is still fighting his corner to extend the benefits for unemployed people but sources say he is unlikely to win unless he can identify savings to pay for it.

"Papers are always being filled by the Treasury," one party source said. "It would be unusual if a document containing a spending commitment had not been filled."

Mr Brown has told Mr Smith to remove a section on child benefit from his paper on

for 16 to 18 year olds, to save £700 million.

Mr Smith, who knew nothing of the scheme till the morning it was leaked, has agreed to look again at the payments as part of a review of post-16 education. Mr Smith and David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, are studying a number of options on child benefit.

Mr Smith is keen on channelling some of the savings to encourage poorer families to keep their children at school after 16. One option is to increase allowances for poorer families from the present £10.80 weekly rate for child benefit to about £20, while removing it altogether for richer families or taxing it for higher income groups.

the Child Support Agency which will go to the policy forum in Manchester. Mr Smith is believed to have argued against any form of means testing or taxing of child benefit.

Mr Smith was said to be furious that Mr Brown undermined that paper by briefing two weeks ago that Labour intended to scrap child benefit

for 16 to 18 year olds, to save £700 million.

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Mr Smith will share a platform with Mr Brown, Mr Blunkett and Tony Blair today when Labour announces its £1.5 billion deal to eradicate youth unemployment. Mr Blair will unveil new plans to abolish the Government's Youth Training programme and use the £550 million savings to replace it with a new Target 2000 training scheme. Labour's aim is to ensure that all youngsters develop certain basic numeracy and literacy skills by the time they are 16.

Mr Blunkett, who has drawn up the scheme with Stephen Byers, a Shadow Employment Minister, will today pledge that Labour will offer employment, training and education opportunities for 600,000 people under 25.

Germans lay ground for Wembley final

By DAVID MADDOCK

THERE is a question raised at some stage by every football supporter whose memory of the 1966 World Cup final has dimmed. Why, they ask, does Germany win everything? The answer, it seems, lies in the preparation.

They had booked a luxurious Manchester hotel for the European Championship, beginning on June 8, even before the qualifying campaign. Now the Germans have had a pitch built at the cost of £10,000 to allow them to train within the grounds.

The training surface has been built to the exact proportions of the Wembley pitch and covered with the same turf, which will be cut to the same length. This is despite the fact that they are only likely

to play on the real Wembley turf if they reach the final.

"We have been preparing for these championships from even before the last competition was completed four years ago," a spokesman for the German Football Federation explained.

Risk is not a concept they will entertain in their diet either. They will eat no British beef. The team will munch their way through 90lb of meat a day during the championship, all of it imported from a Bavarian butcher.

An entire wing of the hotel has been booked for the 60-strong party for three weeks. A satellite has been installed to beam German programmes into the players' rooms, and no doubt towels have already been placed beside the leisure club's luxury pool.

The German FA had nipped in first to pip several other associations interested in using the hotel as a base. They are spot on with their attention to detail. We have worked closely with them for several months to get everything right, and we believe we have covered everything," said Paul Clayton, the hotel's general manager.

England supporters have every reason to be worried. The German squad for the tournament was announced on Monday and they will arrive here in time for their first press conference on May 24. England, by contrast, have not even finalised their squad and next week set off on an apparently pointless trip to China and Hong Kong.

Charlton's roving role, page 50



John Major promised yesterday that the Government would fund improved security for schools..... Page 6

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CPS to review cases after contaminated lab test throws into doubt at least a dozen IRA convictions



Terrorists whose cases could be re-examined: Sean McNulty, Feilim O Hadhmaill, Robert Fryers, Vincent Wood, Patrick Hayes and Denis Kinsella

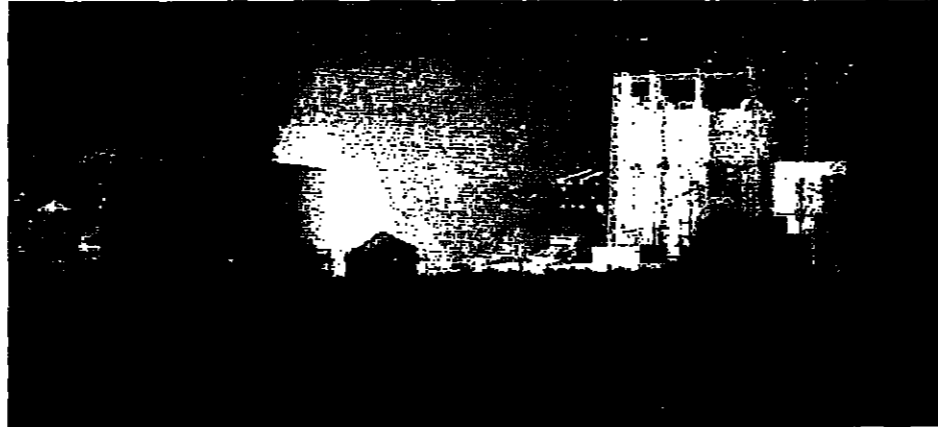
The terrorists who could go free

By FRANCES GIBB AND RICHARD DUCE

THE PRISONERS

LEADING IRA terrorists jailed for horrific attacks on mainland Britain could have their convictions quashed after the inquiry into contaminated equipment at the Government's Fort Halstead laboratory.

edged as the foremost scientist in his field. In the meantime, the CPS, which is refusing to name any of the prisoners affected, is to conduct its own review.



Aftermath of the Tyneside bombing, for which Sean McNulty was jailed for 25 years

northwest London, with a bomb in a holdall. Gerard Mackin, 33, and Derek Doherty, 23, who were both convicted in October 1994 of conspiracy to cause an explosion.

England, had a passionate hatred for Britain and, when sentenced, told the judge: "No problem." Jan Taylor and Patrick Hayes, two English "weekend revolutionaries" who were jailed for 30 years in May 1994.

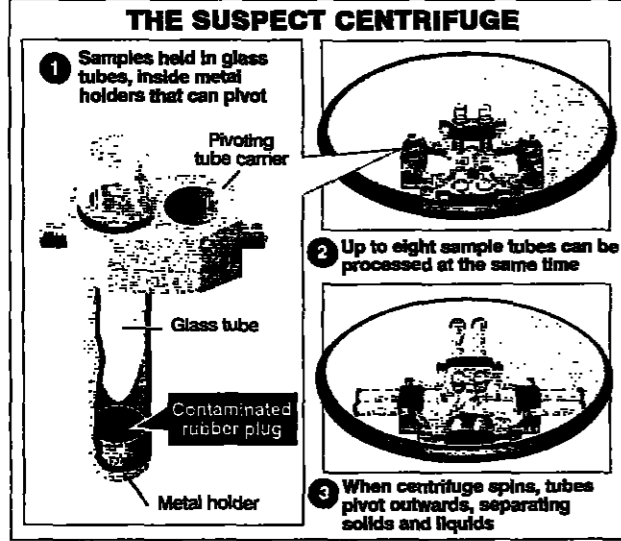
Police believe that the men were part of a team that carried out 25 attacks in London from autumn 1992 to early 1993. Denis Kinsella, Sean Kinsella and Pat McGlynn, who were convicted for the bomb attack on Warrington gasworks in 1993.

of the kidnapping of a motorist when they abandoned their escape vehicle and of possessing a gun. Vincent Wood, 29, an English sales executive, who was jailed for 25 years at the Old Bailey in July 1993 after he stored 17.5 kilograms of Semtex at his home in east London.

Explosive in centrifuge discovered by chance

By NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

THE PROCESS



THE contamination was discovered in a centrifuge that had been in use at Fort Halstead ever since a laboratory to test for tiny traces of explosives was established there in 1989.

gas chromatography. This is sensitive enough to detect explosives in quantities as small as a billionth of a gram. To protect the glass sample tubes, they are inside metal holders, with rubber plugs at the bottom of each holder.

presence of about 30 millionths of a gram of the explosive RDX — way above the levels expected from such a sample. A more typical value might have been ten billionths of a gram.

Secret experts solve jigsaws of terrorism

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE LAB

THE Royal Armament Research Defence Establishment near Sevenoaks, Kent, is one of the most important but least known Defence Ministry institutions. Behind high barbed-wire fences bristling with guards and electronic security, 12,000 staff work on the research, design and development of mainly conventional weapons.

work involved in the convictions of the Maguire Seven, wrongly convicted for running an alleged IRA bomb factory, was done at Fort Halstead. Whitehall insiders also suggested that they were drawn into the case of the Birmingham Six, freed after 17 years in jail for the 1974 pub bombings when Home Office scientific findings were discredited.



Caddy: put in charge of an independent inquiry

Although they have been involved in some of the most sensitive terrorist cases of recent times, their work has largely gone unnoticed by the public. "That is on purpose," a Whitehall insider said yesterday.

Official Secrets Act. The establishment was sited in Fort Halstead between the wars but developed as today's modern complex only after the Second World War.

Advertisement for Forté hotels. Features 'BREAK INTO SUMMER' offer with '3 NIGHTS, DINNER, BED & BREAKFAST' for £33 per person, per night. Lists various hotel locations across the UK.

Advertisement for Matthew Parris Political Sketch. Features a cartoon of a falconer and text discussing Tony Blair and Gordon Brown.

Advertisement for ICL 'Motivation!' featuring the slogan 'ICL that's IT.' and 'Information Technology-IT-promotes interaction and furthers participation!'.

Partial view of another newspaper page on the right, showing headlines like 'Persian', 'Jilted lo...', and 'WPC mad sex taunts a...'.

Persian cat casts owner in the role of international criminal

By BILL FROST AND PETER FOSTER

A PERSIAN cat was responsible for casting a wealthy young businesswoman from Latvia in the role of an international criminal, the High Court was told yesterday.

ford, representing Miss Kokorevica, said: "Her obvious wealth and East European background seemed to make officials think that like Blofeld, the cat-loving arch-villain in James Bond, she was linked to organised crime."

Mr Croxford described Miss Kokorevica as "a rich, young eastern European travelling with a cat - nothing more" who intended to stay at Claridge's in London until the £1.2 million house she had bought was redecorated.

Immigration officials were worried about her ostentatious wealth after a luggage search showed that she had huge receipts for jewellery and a chauffeur-driven Bentley was waiting for her at the airport.

"Business people don't usually come with cats. It is as simple as that," he said. Then there was the purchase of a substantial property and the chauffeur.

After interviewing her in Russian, admittedly not her native language, an immigration official decided that her declared sources of income "did not sit easily with her lifestyle" and she appeared reluctant to identify business colleagues.

Union and denied any links with Russian mafia money-laundering or any other form of skulduggery.

Jilted lover reveals all with intimate letter to villagers

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN whose girlfriend left him and refused to let him see their baby sought revenge by sending an offensive letter to everybody in her home village revealing intimate secrets about her family.

Mike Phelan, 40, used the electoral roll to get the names and addresses of 600 villagers in Stoke Gabriel, Devon, where Kathy Holmes, 23, and Millie were living with her parents.

very wrong and caused everyone great distress." Many villagers complained to police. One of them, Leslie Purcell, said that the letter, signed M Jones, contained grossly offensive words and a disgusting sexual content.

Chris Bennett, for the prosecution, said that the letter, "to set tongues wagging", contained gossip of Miss Holmes's private life, that of her parents and sister.

Phelan, of Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire, was fined £1,700 by Totnes magistrates yesterday after admitting sending a malicious communication which was indecent or grossly offensive.

Phelan made a series of telephone calls and became very angry, making wild and irrational threats and while Miss Holmes at first was willing to allow him access to Millie, she then thought he might fail to return her.

Owen Evans, in mitigation, said Phelan had acted out of frustration at not being able to see his daughter. "He knew a lot of things about this young lady and her family, some of it not very pleasant," he said.



Phelan and Kathy Holmes, his former girlfriend



Mark Hallett, holding his painting of David Hockney's Malibu beach house, edges past a portrait of Hockney at the Salt's Mill Gallery

Hockney gives students California dream

By JOE JOSEPH

WHEN the Government urged schools to pep up the standard of their teaching they probably were not expecting that four A-level art students from Bradford Grammar would go so far as to wangle a personal tutorial from David Hockney.

Walker, who accompanied them on their trip to Los Angeles, also hangs in the gallery. On a visit to the school Hockney had been impressed with the work of Robert Frith, Mark Hallett, Ben Walker and James Bowskill and invited them to stay with him in his expatriate home.

Robert, 17, said: "We just expected to use his house and thought he would actually be in Venice. But when we arrived we walked down the stairs of his beach house and there he was to welcome us. He showed us all round his studio and we learnt a lot about the way he works."

took us out in his 300SL soft-top Mercedes on a ride through the San Gabriel mountains known as the "Wagner run". The drive is fantastic, all around the windy mountain roads, to the accompaniment of Wagner's Ride of the Valkyries, which is blasted from speakers beneath the back seats. It was the most fantastic experience. I think it has inspired us all."

WPC 'made ill by sex taunts at work'

By PAUL WILKINSON

A WOMAN police constable was driven to the verge of illness by the blatant sexual comments of colleagues, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

ments degrading and humiliating, especially when they called me a tart and a stripper. After a few months I began to feel as if I could do nothing right. I lost motivation and confidence. It got to the point when I didn't want to be at Holbeck.

Australians ready to deport serial killer from Glasgow

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT, AND ROGER MAYNARD

AUSTRALIA is likely to deport to Britain a murderer from Glasgow who has killed four people and once said he would kill seven people.

followed the accidental death of his baby son Craig, McCafferty claimed at his trial that the voice of his dead son had urged him to kill. He had an obsession with the number seven and believed that if he killed seven times his baby would be resurrected.

stabbed seven times. Two nights later in the cemetery where his son was buried, McCafferty shot dead a miner with seven children. That night the gang murdered a driving instructor.



McCafferty, jailed for multiple murder

Breast scar claim is settled

By BILL FROST

A WOMAN who felt violated by scars left from cosmetic breast surgery ten years ago settled her damages claim for £27,500 yesterday.

Bishop may leave his Faith behind

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the Church of England's leading opponents of women priests yesterday offered to resign as head of the most prominent traditionalist group, Forward in Faith, on his appointment as bishop.

the priesthood. Fr Broadhurst, 53, a team rector in north London, said he did not intend to distance himself from Forward in Faith.

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Car workers to strike over France

NEARLY 100,000 car workers are due to strike in France on Wednesday, the first day of a 10-day walkout by Renault workers. The strike is part of a dispute over a new contract that would reduce working hours and increase pay. Renault workers are demanding a 10% pay rise and a reduction in working hours to 35 hours a week. The company has offered a 5% pay rise and a 35-hour week. Renault is the world's largest car manufacturer. The strike could have a major impact on the French economy.

Ferrets to the rescue at ancient castle

AN army of ferrets has been drafted in to search for old Norman castles. The project is part of a conservation program. The ferrets are used to search for and destroy the nests of the invasive species, the American mink. The mink is a predator of the European otter. The project is led by the British Ferret Society. The ferrets are trained to search for and destroy the nests of the mink. The project is a success. The ferrets have found and destroyed many mink nests. The project is a success. The ferrets have found and destroyed many mink nests.

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SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



HOT TOPICS
A 30-page celebration of summer food, drink, fashion and style, in the Magazine

CHELSEA SHOW-OFFS
Why gardening grows and grows, in Weekend

PLUS
Vision, the seven-day TV and radio guide



Helen Sharman, who became Britain's first astronaut in space in May 1991, brings a touch of live history to local children at the opening in Widnes, Cheshire, of Catalyst, the Museum for the Chemical Industry

Major's pledge for safer schools lacks details of funding

By MICHAEL HORSNELL AND PHILIP WEBSTER

JOHN MAJOR promised yesterday that the Government would fund improved security for schools in response to the murder of the London headmaster Philip Lawrence. But ministers failed to make clear whether they would come up with new money for financing the installation of security cameras and other devices or whether it would be found from the existing £19 billion schools budget.

The Government's working group on school security, set up after the murder of Mr Lawrence last December, put forward 22 recommendations. In a report to the Department for Education and Employment, it urged an extension of police powers to search schools for weapons, wide-spread closed-circuit video systems and intruder alarms, together with better controlled access to premises and perimeter fencing. But a recommen-

time limits for pupil exclusions more rational. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, accused Mrs Shephard of "hiding behind the Treasury" in her response. He said schools could not wait for extra cash to protect teachers and pupils and called for an immediate injection of at least £25 million from contingency reserves. The National Confederation of Parents Teacher Associations has already condemned as divisive the proposed distribution of cash through a system of grants paid out by local authorities.

The working group, whose recommendations were toughened after the Dunblane massacre in which 16 children and their teacher were shot dead, urges the Government to call a national conference on school security to "identify and share good practice". The group believed strongly that there were ways of maintaining turning schools into fortresses.

The Government has already backed one of the report's early recommendations, supporting legislation making it an offence to carry a knife or other offensive weapon on school premises.

The final report also urges the Government to review existing police powers against intruders in schools.

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One in five children carries a weapon

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

ONE in five secondary school children regularly carries an offensive weapon, according to a university research project.

In the majority of cases the weapon is a knife, but one in 50 boys aged between 13 and 15 carries a gun some of the time, a survey by the schools health education unit of Exeter University suggests.

The survey of more than 13,000 children aged 11 to 16 shows that of those who have weapons - ranging from chemical sprays to metal bars, chains, knuckle dusters, broken bottles, knives and guns - 51 per cent carry them only close to home, 10 per cent to school, 11 per cent in the street and 12 per cent everywhere.

The survey also indicates that 44.5 per cent of boys and 67.5 per cent of girls fear physical attack when they go out and 25 per cent of children have been afraid to go to school because of bullying.

The survey was commissioned by Dispatches, which will show the findings on Channel 4 tonight. John Balding, head of the unit, says the results show remarkable consistency over different types of area and school.

He said: "This is Middle England and in many ways these figures may underestimate the seriousness of the problem because they don't include particularly tough inner-city areas or children who are truanting."

Professor Michael Barber of the Institute of Education said: "The evidence that has been produced is clearly breaking new ground and in that sense it is important. But I think you are also getting at a deeper issue - whether there's something going on in the attitudes of young people that neither teachers, parents nor any of the other social agencies has been able to understand."

The survey also indicates that 44.5 per cent of boys and 67.5 per cent of girls fear physical attack when they go out and 25 per cent of children have been afraid to go to school because of bullying.

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CJD victim's family sues ministers over 'mad cow' advice

BY CAROL MIDDLEY

A WOMAN whose mother died of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human form of 'mad cow' disease, launched legal action yesterday against the Government.

Illa Andrews, 23, a chef from Banbury, Oxfordshire, is seeking legal aid to pursue her claim that the Government failed in its 'duty of care' to inform the public about the dangers of eating beef. Miss Andrews, whose mother, Fionnie Van Es, died aged 44 two years ago, is the first relative of a victim of CJD to attempt such a legal challenge.

David Harris, her solicitor, said that they would have to show a link existed between BSE and CJD and also that Miss Andrews's mother was eating beef after the Government said it was safe to do so.

Miss Andrews announced her intention to sue at a meeting of relatives of CJD victims in Banbury yesterday. Seventeen families attended the meeting, designed as a support forum and a means of publicising what they described as the 'shambolic' handling of the beef problem.

If Miss Andrews is successful, her case could pave the way for dozens more relatives to take up similar claims. Mr Harris, of Alexander Harris of Sale, Greater Manchester, emphasised that each case would have to be proved

Britain's slender hopes for the easing of the global ban on beef exports depend on France. The European Union's veterinary committee will consider a proposal today to allow British exports of gelatine, tallow and bull semen. France could override the opposition of Germany and other states and President Chirac is being lobbied on his London visit. But earlier this week French ministers were reluctant to support a relaxation.

individually and that Miss Andrews's challenge could take two years to come to court. He said the most that could be won in compensation was £7,500 but it was worth pursuing for the 'wider emotional consequences.

"It is all very well for the Government to contend that there is no proven link. There are suggestions indeed that have been put in the press and the media over a considerable period of time that there is a link," he said.

Miss Andrews said her Dutch-born mother had died within three months of showing the first symptoms of CJD. At first Ms Van Es, who was divorced from her husband, Terry Andrews, was depressed and suffered mood swings, becoming panicky at the thought of

being left alone. When she developed a jerk in her right hand her children put it down to the antidepressants she was taking.

Weeks later she began to lose her memory and found it difficult to walk. Miss Andrews said: "By the end we were doing everything for her - washing her, dressing her, feeding her. She had terrible convulsions which would knock her out of bed."

Miss Andrews, who was accompanied by her brothers Tjark, 21, and Tjebbe, 14, said the family had no idea about the disease when it was first diagnosed.

"I remember looking it up in the medical dictionaries with the doctors," she said. "I must admit that when someone first suggested beef to me, I thought 'you must be joking'. But now I'm convinced."

She said her mother ate beef "but no more or less than anybody else. We have it twice, three, may be four times a week, depending on what we wanted to eat that week."

"If someone can prove to me it wasn't beef then I will accept it. But no one can."

Miss Andrews added: "We just can't get over the fact that we lost our perfectly healthy mother at the age of 44. We should have had a lot more years with her and the Government should have been telling people about the dangers of eating beef years ago."



Geoffrey Cheney holds up the bullet he removed from Tenneh Cole's head

Surgeons remove bullet from girl's head

BY JEREMY LAURENCE

SURGEONS removed a bullet from behind the eye of an African war orphan yesterday in a life-saving operation lasting two and a quarter hours.

Tenneh Cole, 5, from Sierra Leone, was said to be making good progress last night after the operation at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. The charity Hope and Homes for Children had arranged for Tenneh, whose name means "God will provide", to be flown to Britain last week. Both her parents were killed in her country's civil war and she survived a three-month journey through the bush to seek help.

At a news conference, Geoffrey Cheney, a consultant surgeon, held the bullet that he had extracted from behind Tenneh's right eye where it had been lodged for 16 months. "She is very lucky to be alive," he said. The bullet could have led to a fatal infection at any time.

"We think [the bullet] either came in through the brain or ran around under the skin and into the orbit of the eye," Mr Cheney said. The bullet had destroyed the sight in the right eye. An infection could have ascended into the brain and caused meningitis, which would have proved fatal.

Mr Cheney said he had removed as much of the infected tissue as possible. The main risk in the short term would be of infection, and Tenneh would be on antibiotics.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Malicious caller loses court plea

A man jailed for assaulting women by making hundreds of silent phone calls has lost his appeal against conviction at the Court of Appeal. Lord Justice Swinton Thomas said: "That the violence is inflicted indirectly, causing psychological harm, does not render the act to be any less an act of violence." Robert Ireland, 28, of Hereford, whose victims suffered physical symptoms, was jailed for three years at Newport Crown Court, Gwent, in March last year. He has since been released.

Kidnap arrests

Police have made several arrests in the hunt for masked men wielding baseball bats who kidnaped a man of 47 in a loyalist area of Belfast. He was found near Larne at 4am yesterday with head injuries.

Meningitis death

A boy aged two from Birmingham died from meningococcal meningitis hours after admission to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. His family had been staying at a holiday camp in Dawlish Warren.

Shand-Kydd case

Frances Shand-Kydd, the Princess of Wales's mother, was accused at Oban Sheriff Court of driving while over the alcohol limit and not providing a breath test. There was no plea. The case was adjourned.

Operatic twist

Robert Corner, 36, who badly twisted his ankle while playing the lead role in a local production of *Pirates of Penzance* at Long Eaton, Derbyshire, has won £4,750 from the insurers of the scenery makers.

GP cautioned

A GP has been cautioned by police for assaulting one of the partners at his health centre practice, allegedly in front of patients. Dr Graham Russell, 63, of Gloucester, has since left the practice.

Hooligan video

A video giving warning of violence at the European Football Championship will go on sale next week uncut. Production of *Hooligan 96* was suspended after criticisms that it glamorised hooliganism.

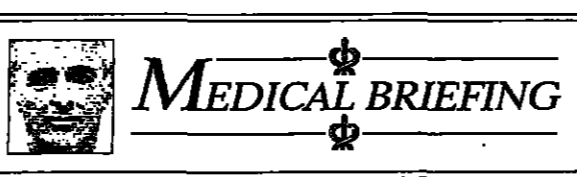
Passive smoking may not kill but it does a lot of harm

CAMPAIGNS against tobacco have tended to rely heavily on the increased liability of cigarette smokers to develop cancer of the lung. Although these crusades have under-stated the effect of cigarettes on cardiovascular disease, non-malignant conditions of the lung such as emphysema and bronchitis, and cancers of the mouth, gullet, bladder and cervix.

65 is in many ways a greater deterrent than the increased risk of developing cancer of the lung.

Recent research by the European working group on environmental tobacco smoke and lung cancer, which has shown that passive smoking is a statistically insignificant factor in the cause of lung cancer in non-smokers, is no great surprise to most doctors.

The traditional teaching is that about one in ten lung tumours occurs in non-smokers and those usually have a different cellular structure.



Thirty years ago a non-smoking patient with lung cancer considered it a misfortune of nature and blamed nobody, but now it is rare to see such a patient who does not blame it, without any true evidence, on a smoking spouse, a neighbour at work or a lifetime as a barman or in some other job

that involves working in a smoky atmosphere.

The greater chance of developing a common disability is usually more telling than the fear of catastrophe in the future. As a former doctor in geriatric medicine, I have always felt that the simple statistic that smoking one cig-

arette cuts the penile blood supply by a third is likely to do more to dissuade middle-age smokers than all the statistics on cancer of the lung.

Aged 25, fit and youthful, a smoker can afford a third of a desirable, if not essential, blood supply without disadvantage; 15 years later he may well find this loss is crucial.

Likewise, smokers will not be discouraged by news that passive smokers have a relative risk of 1.01, where 1.0 means no increase in risk, but may think again when they realise that their addiction

can exacerbate many minor problems suffered by those with whom they work or live.

Passive smoking may trigger asthma, allergic rhinitis (a runny nose), bronchitis and angina in their colleagues. Even the toughest smoker would presumably refrain from smoking if he or she understood its detrimental affect on children, where it is closely related to the incidence of childhood asthma and cot death.

Working, or living, in a tobacco-laden atmosphere induces chest pain in patients

with coronary heart disease. When people with heart disease share a car to work with smokers they have angina on the way when they are breathing smoke-laden air, and on the way back, but while in the office they are free of chest pain.

Passive smoking may cause angina, coughing, a runny nose, it may even kill small babies, but it is unlikely to give rise to cancer.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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Whitehall lets bill run out of control at British Library

By Nigel Williamson, Whitehall Correspondent

SQUABBLES and indecision by civil servants over building the new British Library have trebled costs and caused a catalogue of technical disasters, a public spending watchdog says today.

The resulting delays mean that the building will open eight years behind schedule, at the end of next year. When the public is finally admitted, the library will not have enough seats to meet demand.

A report by the National Audit Office blames disputes between the Heritage Department and the library for many of the problems. The two bodies behaved "as opposing parties rather than partners" in the construction of the £500 million building at St Pancras, London.

In the summer of 1994, when a cash limit of £450 million had been breached, the department considered abandoning the building, described by the Prince of Wales as a

dim collection of sheds groping for some symbolic significance. The idea was rejected and another £40 million was made available. That was used up in February and costs are still rising.

The audit office is highly critical of the library's role but keeps its main barbs for the department. The report has been delayed for many months while Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, tried to persuade the audit office to water down some of its criticisms. Yet the conclusion remains devastating: the library never had direct management or contractual responsibility for the construction and the Government's desire to secure short-term savings not only led to delays but eventually added to long-term costs, now standing at £496 million.

The report says: "Having effectively two clients for a major construction project

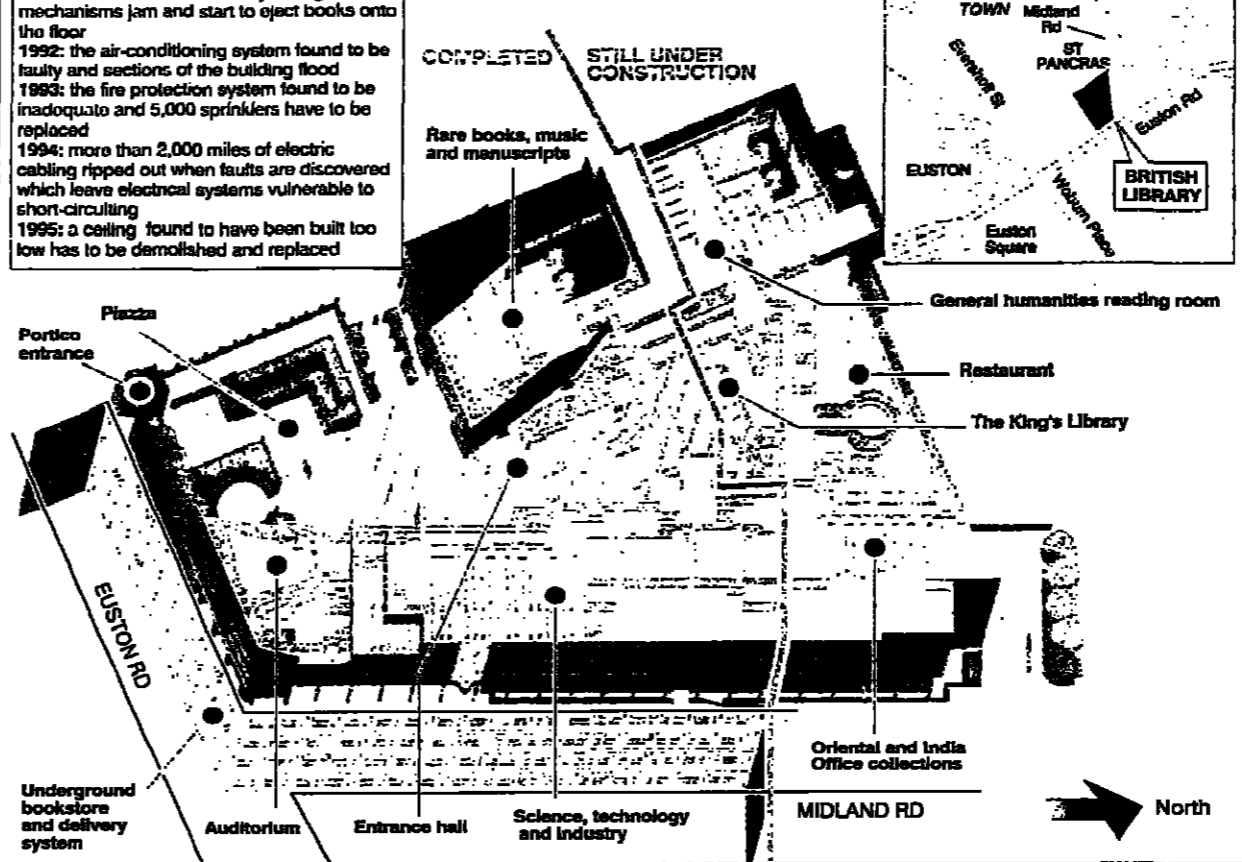
carries a high risk of disagreement and indecision over issues of cost versus quality." Conflicting objectives between the department and the library "aggravated time and cost overruns". In a rebuke to the Government, the audit office says: "Major capital projects should be sponsored exclusively by their users, who are best placed to balance time, cost and quality issues."

The library is due to take over the building from the department early next year. The first books will be moved in November this year but the service to readers will not begin until the end of 1997. The audit office queries whether the 1,200 reader seats will be sufficient. Demand for the science reading room, with 351 seats, is expected to be "exceeded at or shortly after opening".

The building, which will eventually house 18 million books when it replaces the old

A litany of technical problems
 1991: electronic bookshelves in contract worth £6.4m found to be faulty. The gear mechanisms jam and start to eject books onto the floor.
 1992: the air-conditioning system found to be faulty and sections of the building flooded.
 1993: the fire protection system found to be inadequate and 5,000 sprinklers have to be replaced.
 1994: more than 2,000 miles of electric cabling ripped out when faults are discovered which leave electrical systems vulnerable to short-circuiting.
 1995: a ceiling found to have been built too low has to be demolished and replaced.

THE BRITISH LIBRARY - THE STORY SO FAR



British Museum Library, has been beset by technical problems. The report says that inspections of building work were muddled and confused. Delays in the first phase

caused claims from contractors and meant £50 million was spent running the site and employing construction and design staff for an extra 32 months. The department said

yesterday that the audit office had recognised that the problems were rooted in management practices of the 1980s. Sir Anthony Kenny, chairman of the British Library

Board, said: "The Department of National Heritage and the British Library have worked together and have reached satisfactory conclusions."

Gallery to shine light on Roman treasures

By John Young

A NEW gallery for the display of some of the greatest treasures of Roman Britain will open at the British Museum next year.

Many of the objects have never been on public display. They include remarkable new archaeological discoveries, such as a superbly preserved building facade from Meonstoke in Hampshire and the spectacular early 5th-century hoard from Hoxne in Suffolk, containing jewellery, silver-plate and thousands of coins.

The gallery is being funded by a £1.75 million donation from the Garfield Weston foundation. Robert Anderson, the museum's director, said yesterday: "This significant gift from the foundation will at last enable us to do justice to our Romano-British collections."

The display will include writing tablets from Vindolanda on Hadrian's Wall, which provided remarkable insight into life on the northern frontier of the empire.

Leading article, page 19



Anna of Brazil, a porn star, in Cannes yesterday

Porn brokers take a front-row seat at film festival

FROM DALYA ALBERGE IN CANNES

THE seamier side of the Cannes Film Festival is flaunting itself unashamedly: pornography is a thriving industry.

"Take a walk down Porn Row", one specialist in "erotic films" said, pointing to an area of the conference building where there were many stands.

More than 100 porn exhibitors are in town, tempting buyers with thousands of films as openly as if they were children's cartoons. Just a few years ago, business was discreet. Today, it is in the building where the film festival premieres its main movies. Exhibitors cover their stands with glossy photographs of nudes in the most contorted positions, enticing passers-by to sample a video or two.

Some of the larger-than-life girls look as if silicone was on special offer when they put their bodies in the hands of a surgeon. Most make Pamela Anderson look like a character in a Jane Austen novel.

The festivals in Cannes and Milan are the main showcases for pornographic films, which are generally on sale in hard and soft-core versions. Some stands, however, have a third version that is extra-explicit, primarily aimed at the German market.

The porn market has become so strong that 5,000 American porn films were released in the United States alone last year. So many new companies are emerging that prices are being forced down. Chuck Zane, a Californian who has been in the business for 25 years, said: "Porn makers aren't making as much money as they were. I'm sure the world will feel upset for us." He makes 48 features a year. Since the arrival of video, he said, "any

Tom, Dick or Harry has got into the business. They don't have to shoot on film. It used to cost £130,000 to make a porn film but now it can be done for £16,000."

Donna Welles, director of North Star, a Los Angeles company, said: "Making porn has got much more difficult over the past five years because almost every scenario has been played out and mainstream films are so much more explicit that porn makers have to go further."

Tickets to tonight's Hot d'Or Awards, the porn industry's answer to the festival's prestigious Palme d'Or, cost £150. Categories include Best Lesbian Scene.

One of North Star's most recent releases, for which it is seeking a British distributor, is *The Dream Team*, featuring sex on jet skis. Ms Welles discussed the videos in such a matter-of-fact tone that she might have been selling the jet skis.

She turned on the film for a few minutes and said most buyers watched them on fast-forward. The story, she said, did not matter. Buyers just want to see the sex - unless it is destined for cable television, when they need "enough of a storyline".

Asked about the exploitation of women, Ms Welles said: "Most of these girls like to have sex." She emphasised that North Star has strict policies: "No bondage. No bestiality."

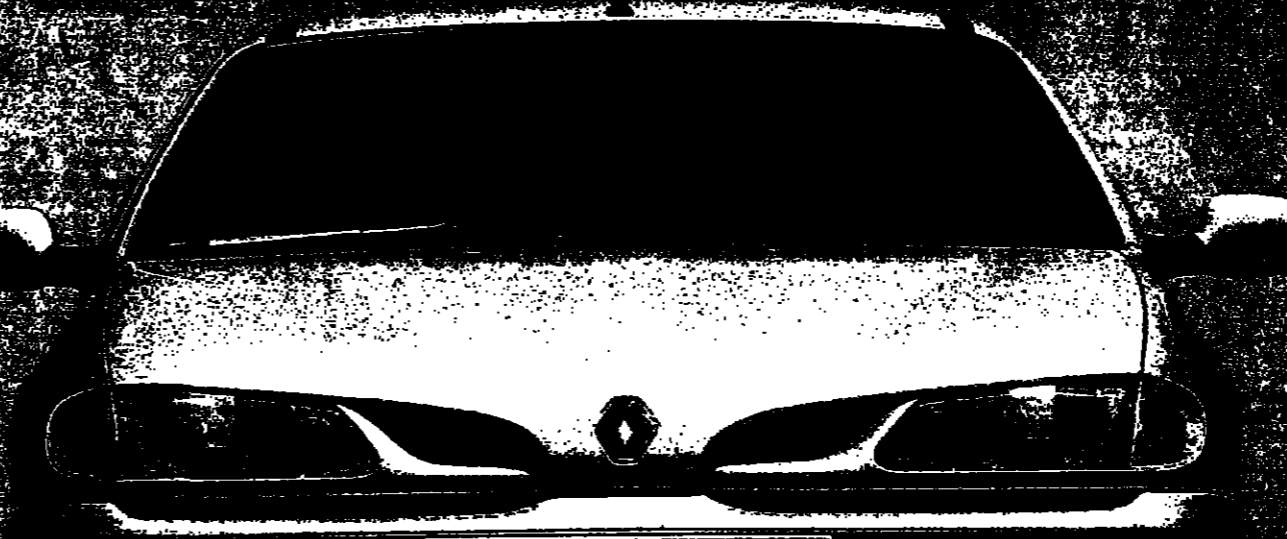
Many porn stars were in town yesterday. One of them, Laetitia, said: "I love being a porn star. It's the best thing in the world."

Actresses get as little as £60 for every sex scene, but once they make their names in porn, they can tour as dancers and command salaries of £10,000 a week.

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Only MPs can make reforms of the House of Commons work

Parliament is not working well. Virtually everyone associated with Westminster — ministers, their Shadows, thoughtful backbenchers, let alone the press — agrees about that. Indeed, Tony Newton has proved to be a more radical reformer as Leader of the Commons than his cautious style suggests. But there is no real consensus about what is wrong and why. Much of the analysis is muddled, so suggested solutions, sensible though they may be on their own terms, fail to tackle the underlying weaknesses.

Ann Taylor's speech yesterday on parliamentary reform doesn't really

address these issues. She argues that "17 years of Tory Government have corrupted the faith of the electorate in their elected representatives". Clearly, such a long period of one-party rule has had a big, if possibly temporary, impact on relations between the executive and the legislature, but much deeper questions are raised by the emergence of new challenges to the authority and influence of Parliament. These range from European institutions, increased media domination of the political debate, to the courts and the extension of judicial review. At the same time, the focus of the Commons has shifted away

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

from deliberation and legislation towards sustaining and staffing the executive. Many more MPs than in the past want to be ministers or on the opposition front bench and, with other changes, this has weakened the attempts by the Commons to scrutinise the executive.

Unless these underlying changes are addressed, there is little hope of achieving the reforms proposed by Mrs Taylor. She has some persuasive suggestions for improving pre-legislative consultation and discus-

sion, for closer scrutiny of secondary legislation, and for extending the role of select committees into ratifying senior public appointments and reviewing the annual reports of agencies and national quangos.

But the idea that senior appointments, such as the Governor of the Bank of England and the heads of the relevant select committees has profound constitutional implications. At present, these appointments are made independently of the legislature by the Prime Minister and other ministers using prerogative powers. There is a strong case for

making some senior posts dependent on approval by the Commons. Though some candidates will be wary of being subject to the scrutiny of their personal histories that American nominees face during the Senate confirmation process.

Moreover, select committees simply do not have enough high quality, energetic and motivated MPs on them to take on extra burdens. With 170 MPs on the two front benches, this leaves a much smaller pool of talent available to serve on committees. If select committees are to be given a bigger role, the front benches have to become smaller and take fewer of

the able MPs. Otherwise the committees will be stretched beyond what they can realistically do. The same point applies to the increased use of special pre-legislative committees.

Her other ideas for having a more evenly spread parliamentary year, with a shorter summer recess, for changing the balance of Question Time, and providing civil service assistance to the Opposition are all worth considering. As an experienced parliamentarian, she rejects the more naive of the familiar reform ideas, such as having a nine-to-five working day, proxy voting and the like. She also

accepts that any changes could not be imposed by the executive and are matters for the Commons to decide. As the long drawn-out debates over the Jopling changes in sitting hours showed, the old guard of the Labour Whips' Office (now gone) were the strongest opponents of change.

Mrs Taylor proposes an audit of Parliament's strengths and weaknesses. This should start with the basic functions of the Commons and the ambitions and interests of its members — since only MPs can make such reforms work.

PETER RIDDELL

We Tories are the referendum party, says Mawhinney

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

SENIOR Tories launched a fresh attempt at unity on Europe last night with Brian Mawhinney promising that they would be the "referendum party" at the general election.

In a move to counter the threat of Sir James Goldsmith and to convince Tories that Europe can still be a vote-winner, Dr Mawhinney declared that the party was the only one that would guarantee the defence of the nation state. But the party chairman's speech coincided with a defiantly pro-European speech from Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, in which he derided John Redwood's call for a referendum on Britain's future relations with Europe and delivered a ringing endorsement of British membership. Speaking to the German-British Chamber of Industry, Mr Clarke laughed off claims from the Right that British sovereignty was at risk.

He said: "If Rip Van Winkle woke up today and read his morning paper he would think Britain was about to be invaded by Belgium. He would read headlines asking 'Do you want to be ruled by Brussels or Westminster?' The only sane answer to that question is we want to be ruled by Westminster. These are not choices I expect the UK to face in the foreseeable future."

Dr Mawhinney also reject-

ed the idea of a wider referendum on relations with Europe, but his decision to play the single currency referendum card marked the start of a campaign to play the European issue to advantage. He said that if people wanted to vote for the extinction of Britain as a country they could vote Liberal Democrat if they wanted to reduce Britain to the level of a poodle, trotting at the heels of others, letting them set Europe's agenda, they could vote Labour.

But with Labour having so far committed itself to a referendum on the single currency, Dr Mawhinney said his party would never join a single currency without first obtaining the consent of the people. "So at the next general election the Conservative Party will be the referendum party. That will be part of the fundamental choice on offer before all of us in the polling booth that day."

He said there would not be a general referendum. "A referendum on whether the public want a Europe of nation states or a centralised Europe would simply confirm what every commentator and politician already knows: that the British public will not accept submergence in a European superstate. They are right to hold that view. The Conservative Party entirely shares it."

Mr Clarke, speaking earlier,

said that Britain's national interests, both political and economic, lay in being at the heart of Europe. He said it was vital for jobs, investment and prosperity. Britain's influence around the world depended on being a key European power. "The European Union is vital to our national interests, both commercial and political."

"It has been that way for centuries and will remain so for centuries. I simply do not believe that you can separate economics from politics. The economic and trading interests of a nation are at the heart of politics: political decisions affect a nation's economic and trading environment.

"When you consider Britain's future in Europe, you are considering Britain's economic and political wellbeing. The two are inextricably linked. Europe was too often portrayed as another country. "Europe is our continent: a group of increasingly integrated economies in a world that modern communications and international trade are making smaller by the day. We must have the self-confidence and the determination to play our proper part in shaping Europe. In ten or 20 years time I want to see the UK at the heart of an outward-looking, free trading, flexible and democratic Union of national states."



MPs may get more powers

By James Landale

POWERS to ratify the appointment of the Governor of the Bank of England and other senior public figures will be given to MPs under parliamentary reforms outlined by Labour yesterday.

As part of Labour's plans to

strengthen the ability of MPs to scrutinise the executive, the Governor's appointment — traditionally a decision for the Government alone — will have to be approved by the Treasury Select Committee.

In a speech at Westminster, Ann Taylor, Shadow Leader of the House, said that other select committees would be given similar powers to ratify senior public appointments to mainstream quangos, such as the Higher Education Funding Councils. It was unclear, however, whether MPs would have the power to reject an appointment outright, whether committees would hold Senate-style hearings, or whether their decisions would have to be backed by the House of Commons as a whole.

The Governor of the Bank of England is formally ap-

pointed by the Crown, on the advice of the Prime Minister, for a five-year term. Eddie George, the present Governor, is due to stand down in June 1998.

Labour presented a package of reforms at a seminar in the Commons organised by the lobby group Charter 88. As well as changing the parliamentary timetable and the format of Prime Minister's Questions and allowing civil servants to work for opposition parties, as reported yesterday, Labour proposes improving the scrutiny of secondary legislation, including European laws; repealing "outdated and unnecessary" laws; and making ministers more accountable to Parliament by toughening "Questions of Procedure for Ministers".

Activists ask who paid for £1m poster campaign

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

THE Tories unveiled a high-risk £1 million advertising campaign yesterday to trumpet the message that although their policies have hurt they have also worked. But within hours of the posters going up, senior party activists urged Conservative Central Office to reveal who had paid for the campaign.

Tory Euro-sceptic MPs piled on the pressure by criticising the posters' slogan, "Yes it hurt. Yes it worked", for not containing an apology for the hardship the Government admits to having caused. They argue that ministers missed an opportunity to show penitence for Britain's forced withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism.

Labour seized on the Tories' admission that their policies had hurt by publishing a 12-page document listing the policies since 1992 that had caused "all pain and no gain". John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said: "We are delighted that the Tories intend to remind everyone in Britain of the pain they have inflicted since 1992. There have been 22 tax rises, house prices plummeting, twice as many people unemployed as in 1979, a health service under almost unbearable pressure, the chaos of rail privatisation,

and the highest level of job insecurity since the war."

Officials at Central Office describe the posters as the "Tories' touch of humility campaign". One official said the message was as close to an apology as any political party had ever gone. "I hope we get across that taking the tough decisions that were necessary has been hard. It hurt people and it hurt the popularity of the Conservative Party."

The posters bear four messages saying that 26 million people are paying less tax; 14 million savers are paying less tax; mortgage rates are at their lowest for 30 years; unemployment is the lowest in Europe.

There is growing unease within the party that the campaign, made possible only by the reduction of its £18 million overdraft to £2.5 million, might reopen the damaging debate about Tory funding. Eric Chalker, an executive officer of the National Union, responsible for the voluntary wing of the party, said: "I cannot join in the celebrations about the overdraft when I have so many serious question marks about where the cash came from." He wants details of the donations to be published.

Leading article, page 19

YES IT HURT. YES IT WORKED.

ALMOST AN APOLOGY: ONE OF THE FOUR POSTERS

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to health ministers and the Prime Minister; debate on Westminster City Council; in the Lords: Non-Domestic Rating (Information) Bill, third reading; Security Service Bill, second reading; TODAY: President Chirac will address both Houses at 11.30am. Later in the Commons: trade and industry questions; first day of debate on common agricultural policy; in the Lords: care in the community for the mentally ill; Disabled Persons and Carers (Short-term Breaks) Bill, committee.

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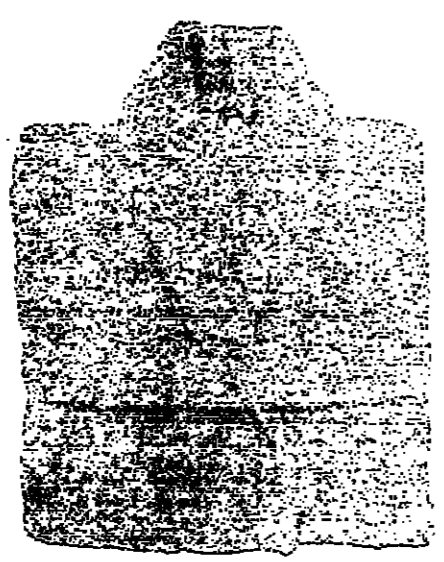
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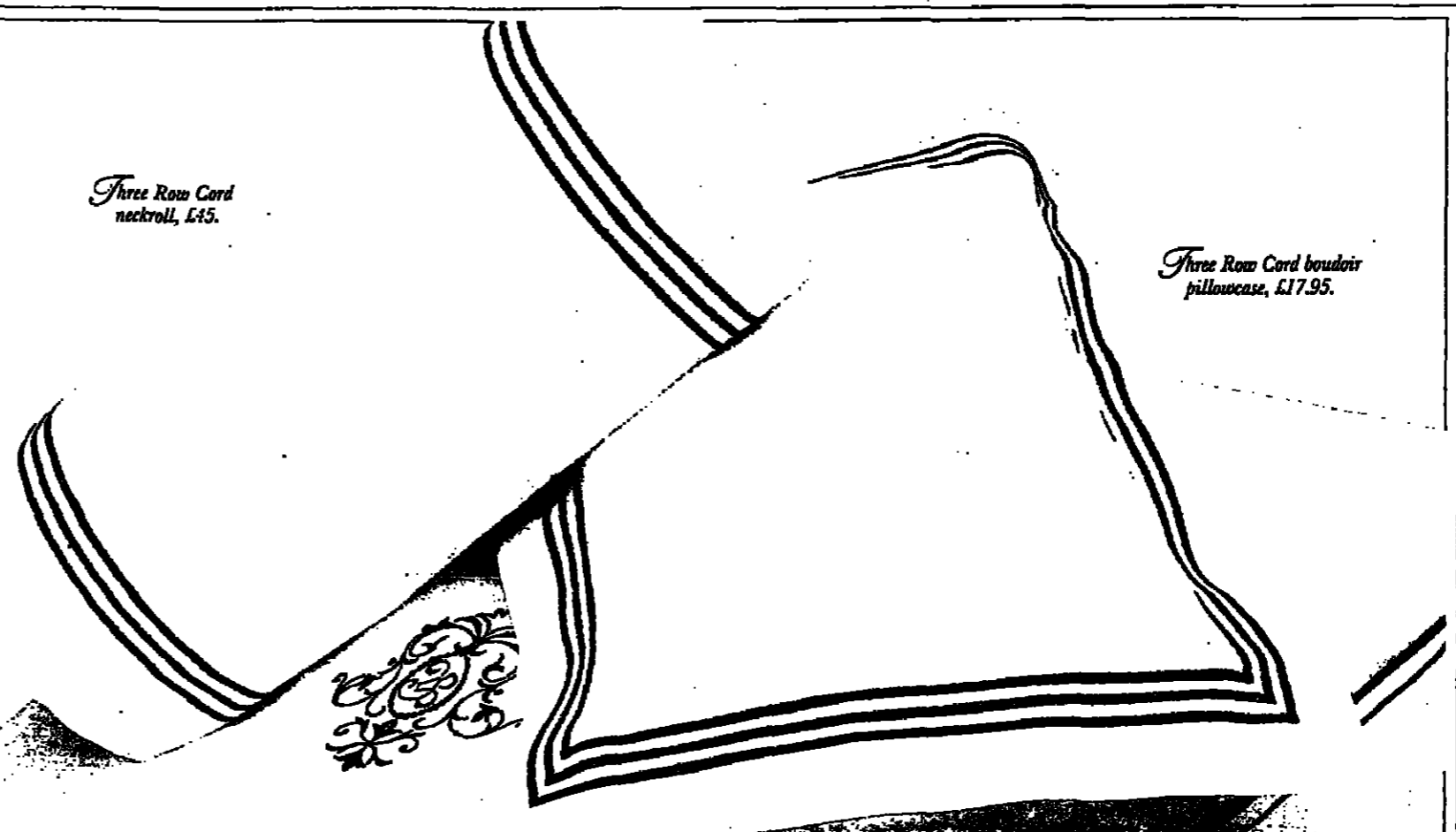
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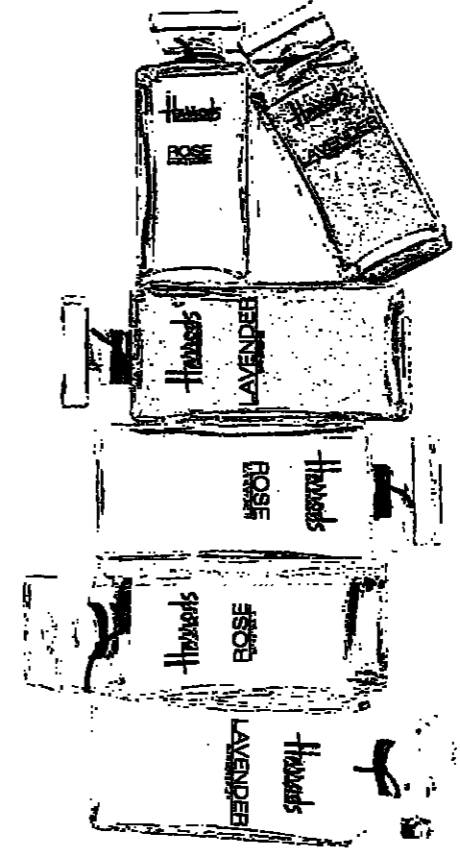
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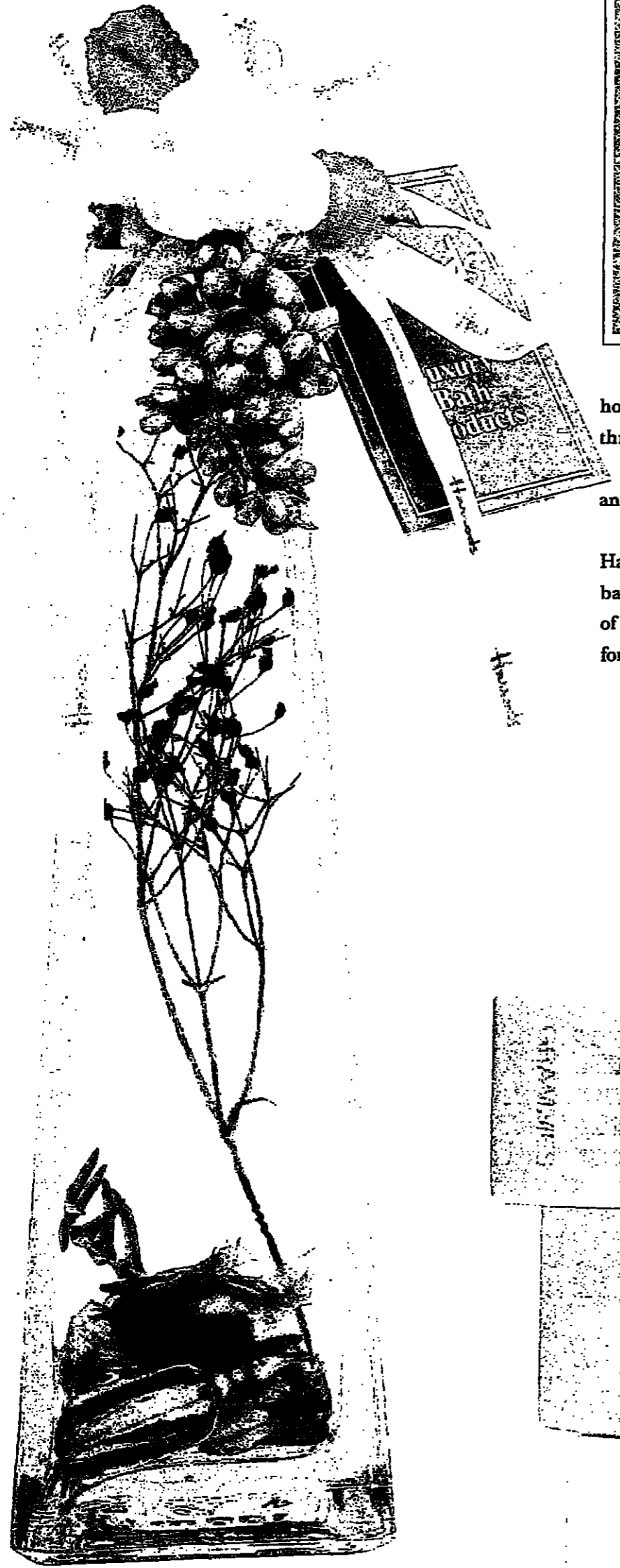
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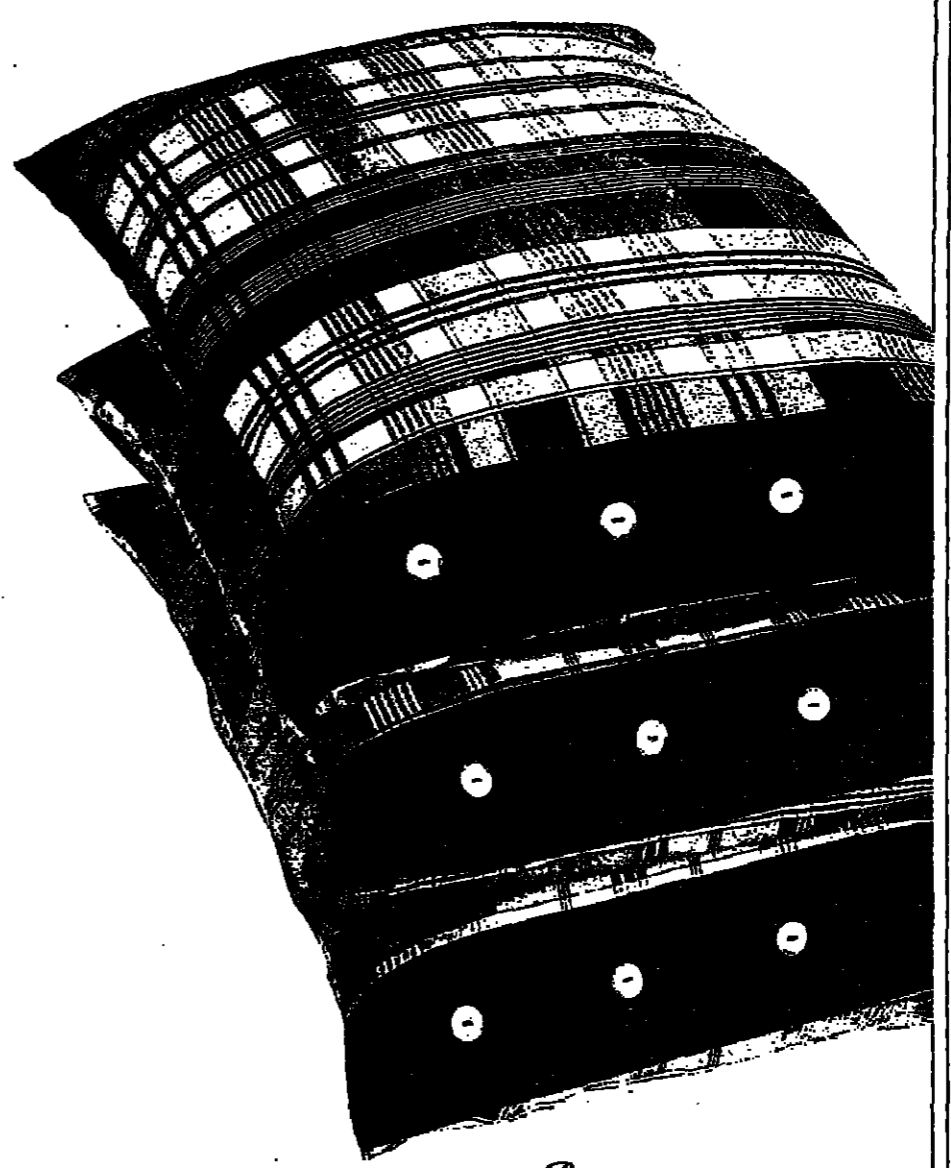
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Plaid pillowcase, £15.95.

Kennedy revival fills Democrats with fresh hope

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A BIRTHDAY card from President Clinton is displayed prominently in the anteroom of Edward Kennedy's office on Capitol Hill. It reads simply: "Thanks for your friendship and for not losing heart this year when so many did."

Mr Clinton has much for which to thank the prominent scion of America's most famous political dynasty. As the President's poll ratings have soared, so too have his party's fortunes in the Senate. In no small part that is due to the extraordinary personal and political revival of Mr Kennedy, a man whose recent career has become a barometer for the Democrats' fortunes.

Two years ago the haggard, bloated and lacklustre senator was on the brink of losing the Massachusetts seat he had held for three decades. Tarnished by a reputation as a playboy, rabble rouser and bon vivant, he was thought broken for ever by the ill fate that had plagued the Kennedy family since the deaths of his two elder brothers.

His popularity had plummeted after William Kennedy Smith, his nephew, was charged with rape after a night of carousing in Palm Beach with Uncle Ted. Mr Smith was acquitted, but the entanglement merely seemed to confirm doubts about the senator's character while

the spectre of Chappaquiddick continued to haunt his electoral ambitions. In the summer of 1994 he had made a public apology for the episode in which Mary Jo Kopechne died after he had driven his Oldsmobile off the Dyke Bridge on the night of July 18, 1969. But even after his re-election later that year, when the Republicans gained control of both houses for the first time in 40 years, Mr Kennedy remained a sad figure, rarely courted other than for his name.

Fast forward to this year and the picture is altogether different. Mr Kennedy rarely drinks alcohol. He leaps out of bed at 6am to conquer the exercise treadmill and arrives at Capitol Hill hours before most of his staff. The suits that had strained to accommodate his bulk last year now look positively loose and the excess flesh has fallen from a face that once more reveals the famous Kennedy jawline.

With the help of his wife Victoria Reggie, a Washington lawyer he married two years ago, Mr Kennedy appears finally to have exorcised the ghosts of his past and settled into a healthy routine of family life. "Basically, I am sort of back in shape or getting there," Mr Kennedy, 64, said recently. "I think I am more alert and able to put in long days and be more effective."

Evidence of the renaissance has never been more obvious than in recent weeks when Mr Kennedy has been more outspoken on the Senate floor than any of his colleagues, Democrat or Republican.

He has also become a real problem for Bob Dole, the Republican presidential contender who had hoped to employ his celebrated legislative skills in Congress to enhance his campaign for the Oval Office.

Mr Kennedy recently co-sponsored a healthcare reform Bill through the Senate, which defeated Mr Dole's efforts to include tax-deferred medical savings accounts, and then played a similar role with new immigration legislation the next week. He had also tried to force a Senate vote on increasing the minimum hourly wage by 90 cents, to \$5.15 (£3.40). Although Mr Dole avoided the vote, the congressional manoeuvring required him to spend nearly 52 hours of work during an important two-week period on legislation which should have taken just two days.

"The sand was slipping through our hands and Kennedy put the mirimum wage on the map," said Scott Sutherland, of the Labour Department. "He is a metaphor for the Democratic revival; the guy is everywhere."



Zane Hollingsworth holds the Olympic flame aloft as he carries it on the Pony Express trail, from Julesburg, Colorado. A team of riders was carrying the flame from Colorado through Nebraska, on its way to Atlanta, Georgia, where the Games begin in July. High winds meant it had to be protected in a lamp

Jet hunt given gun guard for alligators

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A POLICE sharpshooter stood guard yesterday over recovery workers at the marshy Florida crash site of the DC9, piloted by Candalyn Kubeck, that was lost on Saturday. The marksman's target: alligators.

The presence of an armed man illustrates the complexity and unpleasantness of the clean-up of Flight 592. The jets "black box" flight recorder was retrieved by chance after a US Navy diver stepped on it. Sonar search machines had been unable to penetrate the murky, waist-high swamp waters of the Everglades.

The biggest piece of human remains to have been found so far is a kneecap. The bodies of the 109 victims, who included three Britons, were perhaps obliterated, maybe sucked into the mud, or swiftly devoured by the creatures that live in the dank marshes. In addition to the alligators, snakes and large mosquitoes, recovery workers have had to contend with the tall saw grass, so called because its blades are as sharp as a sword. Brush against it accidentally and you are left with a deep gash.

The crash split hundreds of gallons of aircraft fuel into the stagnant waters, further complicating the task faced by the divers, who have had to don stifling protective suits and whose time in the water is limited to 20 minutes. Underwater visibility is limited to a couple of inches and the mud and muck of rotting vegetation sometimes become so glutinous that fit men can barely move. Through this stinking biological soup the alligators move with ease, hunting for more human flesh.

Experienced workers have been left demoralised and disturbed by the investigation. Robert Francis, the vice-chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, said: "This is tough stuff out there. They are having to dress up in bio-hazard equipment, gloves, then putting on large rubber suits on top of that, and masks." To make matters worse, tornados have been forecast for Florida.



Kubeck: pilot was one of 109 people who died

Gay marriages trap is set for Clinton

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Republican Congress is preparing a Bill banning government recognition of homosexual marriages as its latest ploy to embarrass President Clinton. The idea is Mr Clinton will either have to veto the

Defence of Marriage Act and offend millions of mainstream voters in an election year, or sign it and upset the gay community that overwhelmingly supported him in 1992.

"We fully expect the President... to stand up to this gratuitous gay-bashing, and we will hold the President

accountable," said a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a homosexual lobbying group.

The White House said Mr Clinton opposed gay marriages but had yet to decide on the Bill, which Bob Dole, his Republican challenger, has jointly sponsored. To veto it would take enormous courage.

The President and his advisers still vividly remember the drubbing he suffered for seeking to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military early in his presidency.

With six months to go before the presidential election, the race lacks any great overarching theme. Mr Dole is determined to portray Mr Clinton as "knee-deep in the mire of liberalism". He denounces a handful of allegedly liberal judges appointed by Mr Clinton and demands a repeal of Mr Clinton's tiny 1993 increase in the petrol tax.

The President meanwhile is tacking progressively rightwards, and every other day he announces some initiative promoting conservative values.

Dole challenges defence policies

BY TOM RHODES

REPUBLICANS fire an opening campaign salvo against President Clinton's defence policies this week by reviving the national debate over Star Wars, the anti-missile technology that embodied the latter days of the Cold War.

Both houses of Congress are to debate legislation introduced by Senator Bob Dole, the Republican presidential nominee, which would force America to deploy a national missile defence system by 2003. Almost certain to pass Congress, the Defend America Act sets the stage for a battle with the White House over what Republicans say is Mr Clinton's inadequate commitment to defence.

Newt Gingrich, the Speaker, will sponsor the Act

through the House of Representatives this week alongside a \$267 billion (£177 billion) military authorisation Bill. That contains \$13 billion more than the Pentagon requested and Mr Clinton, who vetoed the military authorisation Bill last year when it mandated a missile defence system, is expected to do so again.

Polls suggest fading Cold War memories have left Americans more concerned about the economy than defence, but Dole aides believe the debate will reinject the issue of character and leadership into a flagging campaign. In recent speeches, Mr Dole has said the President's lack of support for a missile system was proof of his military weakness.



than animals because an animal can roam when it is hungry.

September There is a big welt on my arm where I was whipped yesterday for falling asleep at the loom.

October The boss says we are behind on the carpet. We are too slow. So instead of starting at six we will start at four. And instead of stopping at eight we will stop at 11. Three boys are crying but I feel too tired to cry.

November A big commotion today. Nageshwar and his two younger brothers escaped.

December Nageshwar is back and we have been told that the same thing will happen to us if we try to escape. He has been branded with hot iron rods.

January I want to study, I want to be a teacher, and when I grow up I will earn money and help my father out of his debt. That's what I want to do, if I get out of here.

DIARY OF A SURVIVOR AGED 8 1/2

February I don't know why I am here. I think my Papa sold me to the boss to learn a trade and now the boss says I must do exactly what he tells me.

March It's the same every day. We go from our beds to the loom at six. No-one must talk. We tie tiny knots all day, the smallest ones on the carpet because we have small fingers. Work, work, work. My fingers crack and weep and sometimes my eyes get all blurred. We get a cup of dahl and half an hour to rest then go back to the loom till night time. There is no more food. We are too tired to play.

April Paro talked today and the boss lashed her with the cane. He shouted at us "if you children speak you are not giving your whole attention to the product."

May My fingers bled again and the boss got angry with me for getting blood on the loom. He says I will work extra hours for the next two days and I will be fined and that will increase my father's debt to him. I cried when he talked about Papa.

June The boy who lost a hand, poor Rangilal, he fainted today. We begged the boss to open the window. "The mud walls are hot sir. The thermometer says 105 sir." But the window stays shut to keep out the insects that eat the wool.

July Not much light gets through the polythene slats in the roof. It's hard to see the pattern. I made mistakes today and I'm frightened what will happen when the boss finds out.

August In bed tonight, Nageshwar told me his plan to escape. He is brave but he is bigger than me. He said we live worse

This diary is based on interviews with Madan Ram and other children recently working in carpet factories in Uttar Pradesh, India.

These children have been rehabilitated with the help of Christian Aid, but in India alone an estimated 15 million children still spend their entire childhoods slaving in bonded labour to help their parents out of debt.

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Indian leader claim

INDIA'S Prime Minister, P. V. Narasimha Rao, has claimed that the country will not accept the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia, unless the United States government agrees to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military.

Rao, who is expected to announce his decision on Wednesday, said that the United States must show respect for the values of the Olympic Games by supporting the rights of all people.

The ban on homosexuals in the military was lifted in 1993, but it remains a controversial issue in the United States. Rao's claim is seen as a test of the Clinton administration's resolve on human rights.

Everest spar

A PROMINENT Nepalese mountaineer has better luck in the search for the body of a British climber who died on the summit of Everest in 1995.

Sandy Hill, 29, was the first British woman to reach the summit of Everest in 1993. She died on the mountain in 1995 while attempting a solo ascent.

The search for her body has been a major focus of the expedition this year. The Nepalese climber, who was part of the team, reported seeing a body on the mountain.

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Indian Left names leader and stakes claim to govern

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA looks likely to produce a fragile centre-left government after an embarrassing but successful scramble last night to find a compromise prime ministerial candidate who wants the job. The possible new leader of 950 million people is largely unknown: H. D. Deva Gowda, Chief Minister of the southern state of Karnataka.

Bangalore, capital of Karnataka, is the heart of India's booming high-technology and computer software industries. Mr Gowda has held his job for 18 months and is a firm supporter of unfettered foreign investment and further liberalisation of the economy, which was partly opened to international competition by the outgoing Congress Party Government.

There was chaos throughout the day after the powerful Calcutta Communists announced their refusal to participate in any government they could not dominate. That raised the prospect of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) taking power amid the turmoil of its rivals. India's 130 million Muslims would have been appalled.

The Marxists refused to put forward their leader, the octogenarian Jyoti Basu, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, as the prime ministerial candidate for the National Front-Left alliance of parties. They said that they saw no reason to abandon their tradi-

tion of not joining coalition governments. That left the alliance searching hurriedly for somebody else, and it settled on V. P. Singh, after the Communists said yesterday they were ready to support any government that would stop the BJP taking power so long as it was not led by the hated Congress.

However, they said they would not join any administration. So great was the political chaos yesterday it seemed conceivable that P. V. Narasimha Rao, the outgoing Prime Minister, might try to return to power as head of a coalition.

After choosing Mr Gowda, a delegation of leaders of the National Front-Left Front, also known as the Third Force, called on President Sharma to present its case for being invited to form a government. It would be backed by the Congress Party either as a member of the Government or as a parliamentary ally. Mr Sharma is expected to decide this week who should have first shot at proving the ability to govern.

After a day of wild swings of the political pendulum the likelihood of the BJP taking power has again receded. The parliamentary arithmetic is against it, although if it were given the opportunity to try to form an administration it would gain an important advantage in trying to coax MPs to its side.

With its allies it commands

195 seats in the 534-seat Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament), the National Front-Left and its allies have 112, while Congress has 136, its worst showing in five decades. The rest are held by regional parties and a handful of independents.

The BJP has been tempting a range of small parties with offers of political largesse in return for their support. It would need to win over about 75 more MPs to gain a majority, although it thinks that it could form a viable government with substantially fewer than that.

Once in power it could further lure small groups and independents with offers of ministerial posts and other political temptations.

It would doubtless seek to bribe MPs for their backing: the Congress did the same when it fell narrowly short of a parliamentary majority in 1991.

Train crash: Thirty-four people were killed and 20 seriously injured when a train slammed into a bus at an unmanned railway crossing in southern India, the United News of India reported.

The news agency said that the accident happened at the town of Kottamkikkal, in the southern state of Kerala.

The bus, carrying a marriage party, was mangled beyond recognition, the news agency said. It did not say how many passengers were on the train or the bus. (Reuter)



A rickshaw carries a man and his wife, injured in Monday's tornado, to a health clinic in a Bangladesh village

Bangladesh tornado claims 400 lives

FROM AHMED FAZL IN DHAKA

RESCUE workers found 165 bodies yesterday amid the debris of homes and uprooted trees after a tornado left a trail of death and devastation through central Bangladesh.

Officials said more than 400 people had died and thousands were made homeless in Monday's tornado which laid waste a string of small towns and rice-farming villages.

The death toll could rise, according to officials who put the number of injured at 32,000. In

some villages, rescue workers said bodies of children were hanging from palm trees. Survivors had clung on to trees to save themselves from the 92mph winds.

In Tangail, the worst-affected district, 70 miles north of the capital Dhaka, survivors said 300 people were missing as the winds uprooted electricity posts and cut road links. State-controlled radio said access to remote mud and straw hamlets was still impossible.

The thousands of injured were unable to receive urgent treatment as local hospitals

ran out of blood supplies. Emergency operations were conducted by candlelight. More than 500 injured people were ferried by lorries to a hospital 40 miles away as local medical facilities, already overburdened, refused to admit more patients. Abdus Shakoor, a doctor at Tangail district hospital said: "We are expecting more deaths from epidemics breaking out."

Abdus Sattar Khan, the district commissioner of Tangail, said initial rescue efforts were hampered by debris. It was only yesterday morning

that rescue workers were able to gauge the extent of destruction after roads were cleared to reach three other devastated towns. Kalihati, Bashall and Mirzapur.

In one village, Barabhita, a police officer said: "Some families have no one left to mourn." Another officer said: "The whole village has turned into a vast grave." The tornado, although short-lived, reached neighbouring Jamalpur district. Media organisations described property losses as huge and damage to crops as substantial.

US risks Chinese trade war

US risks Chinese trade war

Washington: The Clinton Administration will today identify more than \$2 billion (£1.3 billion) worth of Chinese goods on which it plans to impose punitive sanctions after the apparent breakdown of trade talks yesterday (Martin Fletcher writes).

The goods will be primarily textiles and electronics, and the sanctions will be implemented in 30 days unless Peking agrees to Washington's demand that it end widespread Chinese piracy of American music, films and computer software. China has threatened to retaliate, raising the prospect of a multi-billion dollar trade war.

7,000 firefighters tackle blazes

Moscow: More than 7,000 firefighters were tackling forest fires in the Ural Mountains, Siberia and the Russian Far East as a heatwave and high winds fanned blazes in many areas, officials said. "A total of 6,657 forest fires have been registered in these regions," said Karl Smolikov, of the Emergency Situations Ministry. However, he said that there were no reports of deaths. (AP)

UN expert quits over lack of cash

Geneva: The United Nations human rights expert investigating violations in Burma has resigned in protest at the lack of funds to carry out his work. Yozo Yokota, a Tokyo university law professor, was one of 12 UN experts monitoring violations in countries considered to have the worst human rights records. (AP)

Troops move in to free hostages

Jakarta: Indonesian troops have moved into the jungles of Irian Jaya to rescue 11 hostages, including four Britons, held by separatist rebels for more than four months. The move came after talks between the Red Cross and the rebels broke down. (AP)

Everest spares Manhattan millionairess

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A PROMINENT Manhattan millionairess, better suited to climbing New York's social peaks, was on the ill-fated expedition to Everest that claimed the life of Rob Hall.

Sandy Hill Pittman, estranged wife of the founder of the pop music cable television channel MTV, narrowly avoided death on the mountain after she lost her way in a 70mph blizzard. Mrs Pittman, 41, was losing strength quickly when she was found by two colleagues

who kept her spirits up by singing songs until Neal Beidleman, the team leader, arrived with an oxygen tank.

Mrs Pittman's husband, Rob, arranged a \$42 million (£28 million) corporate buyout last year and, before their marital strife, the Pittmans were big on the Manhattan party scene. She had long spoken of her desire to climb Everest and helped to finance the expedition, organised by an American-based company called Mountain Madness.

Mrs Pittman, who is credited with the looks of Jackie Onassis, took an espresso coffee machine with her up the moun-

tain. She has appeared in *Esquire* magazine's "Women We Love" list and *McCall's* "15 Women Who Will Brighten Your Future". Before she married Mr Pittman in 1979, she toiled as a writer on *Mademoiselle* and *Bride's* magazines, but by 1990 she was being described as a "princess" of Manhattan.

In the competitive social mill of New York, it helps to have a distinctive line in small talk. To be able to drop into the conversation that one has just conquered Everest is something of a social ace. Mrs Pittman has been a keen hill-walker and rock-climber since the age of 13.



Pittman: took espresso machine up mountain

Widow speaks of last call from mountain

BY RONALD FAUX

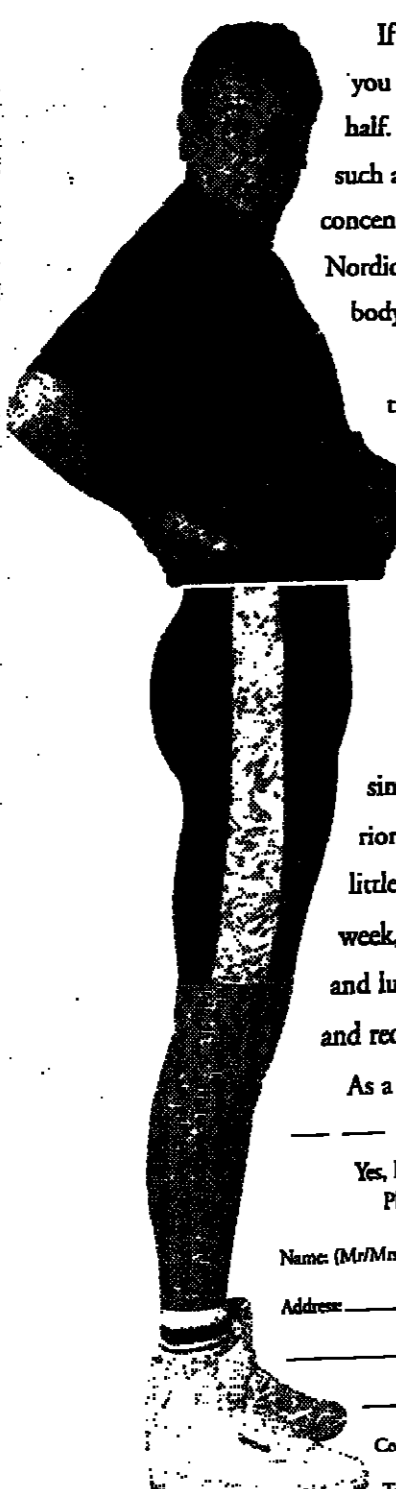
THE widow of the New Zealand mountain guide who died on Everest spoke yesterday of the satellite call she had received from her husband, Rob Hall, before he died.

Jan Arnold, who is expecting their baby, said: "He managed to impart some peacefulness to me, because I slept for six or seven hours."

Ms Arnold, who climbed Everest with her husband in 1993, said he told her he was frostbitten and weak but was trying to save oxygen to get down.

She gave up hope on Sunday when she learnt he had not reached a lower camp. "My heart sank. I could totally picture where he was."

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Moscow plans pact with Belorussia if Nato expands

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

RUSSIA threatened Nato yesterday with a new military alliance between Moscow and neighbouring Belorussia if the Western organisation went ahead to recruit new members from Eastern Europe.

General Pavel Grachev, the Russian Defence Minister, who is strongly opposed to Nato's expansion plans, envisaged Russian troops serving alongside those of Belorussia in the former Soviet republic. The warning was seen in London as another round in Moscow's continuing campaign to thwart Nato's plans to allow countries such as Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to join the alliance, although not until the turn of the century.

General Grachev was quoted by Interfax in Moscow as saying that President Lukashenko of Belorussia backed a military alliance with Russia if Nato went ahead with its expansion plans. The general referred to the creation of a "powerful" Russian-Belorussian military group on the territory of Belorussia, according to Interfax.

Russia and Belorussia "are ready to undertake reciprocal measures in reply to the possible expansion of Nato eastwards", the Russian Defence Minister said. Moscow was particularly concerned

about the possible entry of Poland and Lithuania into the Western alliance, because of Russia's Baltic military enclave of Kaliningrad.

According to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, Belorussia has total active armed forces of 98,400 and about 289,500 reservists. There are still 18 Russian intercontinental ballistic missiles on Belorussian territory.

British diplomatic sources said Russia and Belorussia

Britain backs chemicals ban

Geneva: David Davis, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, last night announced Britain's formal ratification of the chemical weapons convention which bans the development, production, stockpiling and use of an entire class of weapons (Peter Capella writes).

The convention also establishes the most comprehensive verification system ever created for such a regime. It will enter into force six months after it has been ratified by 65 countries. So far, 50 nations - including Germany, Canada and New Zealand - have ratified it.

were already very close and a military alliance between them would not be seen as a significant development.

In the meantime, Western diplomats at the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva expressed confidence yesterday that a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty would be signed by the end of next month.

David Davis, the Foreign Office Minister, who spoke at the conference yesterday, said a test ban treaty would impose real constraints on all the declared nuclear powers, including Britain. He added: "This is the price which we are prepared to pay because we believe that a universal and effectively verifiable [treaty] can make an important contribution to preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons."

At present, India is still holding out for an agreement under which a test ban treaty would be signed only if the five official nuclear weapons countries - America, Russia, Britain, France and China - committed themselves to a programme of nuclear disarmament. China also wants to continue with "peaceful nuclear explosions". However, British diplomats expect India and China to sign a comprehensive ban, China said yesterday it was prepared to show flexibility on its demand.



Spanish beau and his Southern belle: Crown Prince Felipe and, in New York, Giselle "Gigi" Howard



Spanish heir eyes a Georgia peach

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID AND QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

SPANISH royal-watchers are abuzz with speculation that Crown Prince Felipe, 28, may soon announce his engagement to an American "Southern belle".

The heir to the throne met Giselle Howard, 24, psychology student, last year while studying for a Masters degree in international relations at Washington's Georgetown University. Miss Howard, who lives in New York and is known as "Gigi" to family and friends, is the daughter of a telecommunications company executive in Georgia.

Rumours of an announcement soon have been fuelled by Miss Howard's recent secret visit to Madrid, revealed by *Tiempo*, probably to meet the King and Queen.

Miss Howard is expected to be called as a witness in a Manhattan court next month by prosecution lawyers in the trial of a paparazzo accused of plotting to bug the phone line at her New York flat. Carlos Arrazu, of Florida, hoped to capitalise on tapes of Miss Howard talking to her royal boyfriend, it is alleged.

Georgia appears relaxed, or perhaps is simply unaware, that one of its "peaches" has a chance to become the first American to marry European royalty since Grace Kelly caught the eye of Monaco's Prince Rainier.

Imports leave French gourmets choking over their truffles

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE traditionalists of French gastronomy are fighting a valiant rearguard action to ensure that the country's greatest delicacies, from mustard to truffles, are produced in France.

Almost all the seeds in the celebrated Dijon mustard are imported from Canada, the great black truffle of the Dordogne is facing stiff competition from Chinese rivals, and French *viticulteurs* are battling a swelling tide of wines from the Antipodes and America.

For some purists, the influx of what are considered traditional French foods from foreign parts is even more insidious than the erosion of the French language feared by the *Académie Française*.

The three biggest mustard-makers in France have now banded together with the Agriculture Ministry in a project to develop a high-yield strain of mustard that would be

viable for French farmers and turn the fields of Burgundy yellow again.

Agricultural production of mustard virtually died out in the Dijon region two decades ago, as farmers found it more economical to grow other crops, and makers of the condiment turned to mass mustard-producers in North America.

More than £1 million has been spent on research so far and the consortium hopes to have 12,500 acres under production in the Dijon region, meeting almost one-third of French mustard needs by 2000. An additional lure is the prospect of creating an *appellation contrôlée* system similar to that for wine, cider and carrembert, which would guarantee that the product was "Dijon mustard from Burgundy", as distinct from Dijon mustard from Saskatchewan.

Revitalising the French truffle industry is an even more daunting task, since science has yet to reveal the secret of how to grow them, although the French Government is financing research. In recent years the price of French truffles has steadily risen as the quantity has declined. A black truffle can cost as much as £180 a pound.

Trying to persuade French farmers to plant oak trees and then wait to see if the elusive fungus appears in the roots is even harder than convincing them to turn back to mustard. However, if France cannot produce enough of its own truffles, it is certainly not going to stand idle while entrepreneurs from Eastern Europe or China fill the gap.

Some experts insist that a non-French truffle is a contradiction in terms and insipid to boot, but already, as *The Economist* reported recently, there is talk of "truffle quotas" in the south of France.

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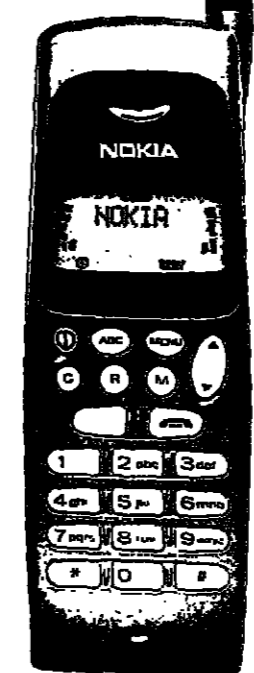
There are 197 universities and institutes of higher education in this country. The overwhelming majority more than Advanced GNVQs and A levels can be regarded as equal. The recent Deans' report agrees. The CBI and employers have said that the skills required on vocational courses are just as valuable in a work environment as any academic training, and yet thousands of parents, maybe you amongst them, still don't seem to consider vocational qualifications and academic qualifications of equal value. Why? It's certainly nothing to do with the facts: 84% of Advanced GNVQ students go on to higher levels of education or employment. 89% of Advanced GNVQ students who applied for degree courses last year were offered places compared with the UCLES average of 66%. Our simple equation means that every student will be given an equal opportunity to achieve their full potential. If you're still struggling with it, perhaps you should sign up for a GNVQ yourself. BTEC, IT'S AN EDUCATION.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY
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Letter describes ordeal of 19 detainees as Shell faces new pressure over Saro-Wiwa hanging

Ogoni activists in plea to West over Nigeria 'frame-up'

By MICHAEL DYNES

THE appalling conditions in which a group of Ogoni detainees have languished in prison for two years, charged with complicity in murder, have been disclosed in documents passed to The Times.

A handwritten letter smuggled out of Nigeria's infamous Port Harcourt jail by a guard describes how the prisoners are being kept in a cramped, vermin-infested cell where the only water available has been contaminated by decaying human remains.

The guard was bribed by the prisoners to take the letter out to highlight their desperate plight.

Their disclosures coincide with the annual general meeting in London and The Hague today of Shell, which is expected to reignite the international storm of protest that followed the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the Ogoni minority rights activist, in the wake of his campaign against the oil giant's operations in Nigeria.

Shell is accused of despoiling parts of the Niger delta, transforming it into a modern-day "Dante's Inferno" as a result of reckless drilling for oil, and disregarding the devastation caused to the environment from oil and gas leaks. The oil company is said to have close links with the military regime of General Sani Abacha.

The letter's signatories, appealing for international pressure to help to secure the release of the 19 Ogoni detainees, say they were arrested in May 1994, and "framed up" for the murder of four tribal leaders. They have yet to come to trial.

to death by an irate mob after bitter internal rivalries between moderates and hardliners within the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (Mosop).

Independent observers say that the Nigerian military authorities, who have been accused of exploiting the murders in an effort to discredit Mosop, failed to prove that Saro-Wiwa ordered the murders. Similar doubts have also been cast on the guilt of the remaining 19 detainees.

The letter, which was

THE SMUGGLED LETTER

...to the Body Shop, which has backed the Ogoni cause, said: "Here we are held, incommunicado in overcrowded and ill-ventilated cells, measuring 20x28 metres with more than 120 inmates sleeping ... on ticks, lice, and bedbug-ridden mats."

The letter adds: "We are only allowed to take our bath twice a week from a well which was until recently a dumping pit for death [sic] inmates, and still contains human skeletons." The well "is the source of our drinking water", and many prisoners are suffering from "skin disease, eczema, and ringworm" as a result. The prisoners say

their food is so bad that "we are all severely anaemic and malnourished". They add that "our poor nutritional state, coupled with the torture received every day", resulted in the death of one of their number last August.

"Everybody suffers from one disease or another," the letter says. "Also pathetic is our state of complete nakedness, as our properties, including clothing, have been looted, and our homes burnt by the armed forces or their agents."

One senior Ogoni activist, who spoke to The Times by telephone, said: "The prisoners are still in a terrible condition. All are desperate, hungry and sick. They are all being held close to the site where Ken Saro-Wiwa and the others were executed last November, and are waiting for the same thing to happen to them."

The activist, a high-ranking member of the banned Mosop, said that he welcomed Shell's recent commitment to redress Ogoni grievances. "But the company must now put pressure on the Government to bring about their release, otherwise the Ogoni people can have no faith in Shell," he added.



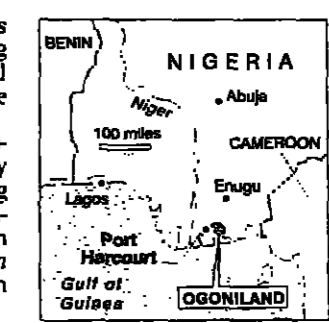
Seventeen of the 19 detainees being held in Port Harcourt prison who signed the smuggled letter passed to The Times are, from left to right, top row: Samuel Asigha, Baribuma Kumanwee, Nyieda Nasikpo, Ngbaa Baovi, Baritule Lebe and Taaghalo Monsi; centre row: Friday Gburuma, Adam Kaa, Blessing Israel, Pop-Gbara Zor-Zor, and Kagbara Basse; bottom row: John Banatu, Benjamin Kabari, Nwinbari Papaa, Paul Deekor, Godwin Gbodor and Babina Vizor. Not pictured are Michael Doghala and Sampson Ntignee

people through health and youth training initiatives. The company closed down its operations in Ogoniland in 1993. Ania Roddick, founder of the Body Shop, who has championed the Ogoni cause over the past three years, said she was outraged by the letter from the Ogoni 19. "We will fight to stop them suffering the same fate as Ken Saro-Wiwa," she said. "Shell failed to save

Ken, yet they say they support human rights and respect the environment," Ms Roddick added. "Shell must demand the immediate release of the Ogoni 19, an end to show trials, and withdrawal of the military. Then they can clean up their environmental mess and compensate the Ogoni people for the destruction they have caused."

Protesters are expected to disrupt Shell's simultaneous annual shareholders' meeting at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre in London and The Hague.

In addition, PIRC, a corporate governance consultancy based in the City, is urging shareholders to reject the annual report and accounts in an effort to highlight "concern over the company's policies in Nigeria".



Aristocrat flier takes off in high spirits for record round trip

FROM MARK HUBAND IN TANGIER

TWO Britons and an Irishman yesterday soared into the sky above Morocco in an attempt to become the first team to fly a single-engine aircraft around the African continent and to raise money for wildlife.

Bursting with high spirits, despite some trepidation and a two-day delay caused by bad weather in France, Lord Edward Manners, Johnny Beveridge and Dan Stevens flew out of Tangier at the start of their 16,000-mile trip. They are planning to make 53 stops and cover 27 countries.

The three men have packed their Cessna U206A light aircraft with communications equipment to relay up-to-date accounts of their three-month journey, and an extra fuel tank which will allow them to fly non-stop for up to 14 hours.

Slipping a beer after arriving in Tangier on Monday from Spain, Lord Edward, the 30-year-old son of the Duke of Rutland, said: "We have planned for what we can plan for. But the excitement and the adventure lie in the knowledge that there are going to be all sorts of things which are going to come at us which we can't plan for."

He has taken three months off from his marketing consultancy with British Airways to do the trip, which will finish in Tangier in late July.



New York-based banker who was born in South Africa, says the trip will bring him in touch with countries which until now have largely been figures on a computer screen.

"Having spent the last four years trading emerging market debt, a significant amount of which is African, it's interesting to be visiting the African continent without a suit and a financial mission. This journey is a chance to live out a dream and make it a chal-

lenge as well." Dan Stevens, a London-based photographer, will take pictures and videotapes during the trip. The three are hoping to raise £200,000, which will be channelled through the Pan African Conservation Trust (Pact).

The journey is intended to increase awareness of projects identified by the Zoological Society of London as having value to animal and human populations. Increasingly, the populations of African coun-

tries have criticised conservationists for ignoring their needs while insisting on the protection of animals. The 1992 Rio Earth Summit addressed this issue, and the Pact initiative reflects growing awareness of the complications involved in ensuring people are not ignored when the needs of rare and wild animals are debated.

The journey, which took two months to plan, will not cover Liberia and Somalia, because of the wars in those countries, and the United Nations ban on flights to Libya has removed it from the flightpath.

"We are a bit like three rookies at the moment," said Mr Stevens, 32. "But it's really exciting to be here. We have only been aware of it for a few days, but every day there's so much that happens."

Mandela ready to see Abacha

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT Mandela has cautiously announced a new South African-led initiative on Nigeria, saying he is prepared to meet the hardline military ruler, General Sani Abacha, provided the talks offer real prospects of success.

Speaking after talks with Sam Nujoma, the President of Namibia, at present visiting South Africa, Mr Mandela said Nigeria was of "great concern to us both". He disclosed that he had been approached by a number of "leading personalities" in Africa to meet General Abacha, who in recent months has appeared to be an increasingly isolated figure.

But Mr Mandela emphasised that he would hold talks only if they achieve positive results. "I'm not prepared to engage in any futile exercise," he said, referring to previous unproductive visits to Nigeria by South African envoys such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Thabo Mbeki, his Deputy President. "I must be assured that the meeting will be fruitful," he said.

His announcement came after a telephone conversation at the weekend with President Clinton about human rights in Nigeria. Western and other African leaders see Mr Mandela as offering the best hope of nudging the Nigerian regime towards democracy.

Ghana opens its doors to Liberian war refugees

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN TAKORADI, GHANA

THOUSANDS of tired and hungry Liberian refugees were given a temporary safe haven in Ghana yesterday and allowed to disembark from the Bulk Challenge, the rusty freighter that has been stranded at sea for ten days.

About 3,000 to 4,000 refugees, desperate to end what a United Nations spokesman described as a "voyage of the damned", left the ship at the western port of Takoradi after the authorities gave in to international pleas for mercy.

"Ghana believes that these innocent civilians should not be made to suffer any more for the failure of their political and factional leaders," Muhammad Ibn Chamsas, the Deputy Foreign Minister, said.

Only a day earlier, however, Ghana had sent the ship away for a second time, joining Ivory Coast in declaring they could not support any more refugees on their soil. More than 350,000 Liberians have fled to neighbouring Ivory Coast and 15,000 to Ghana to escape the civil war.

Fierce fighting erupted again yesterday in Monrovia, the Liberian capital, as rival militia groups battled for territory and two main bridges leading into the city. At least 15 factional fighters were killed, many of them members of Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front.

Monrovia has been racked by five weeks of fighting and looting. Ghanaian officials said a new camp would be built for the refugees, but warned Liberia that it would not accept any more refugees. "There is a limit to our endurance," Mr Chamsas said.

In Geneva, Margherita Amodeo, a Unicef spokeswoman, said some of the refugees would be transferred to a temporary camp for medical treatment. She said that the Nigerian freighter was also full of looted UN vehicles, computers and office equipment.

Ken Williams, the Unicef representative in Accra, the Ghanaian capital, said the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees would supply camping gear and food from the World Food Programme.

"The crew on board are very wicked," said Albert Berry, a 26-year-old pharmacist from Monrovia who was on the Bulk Challenge. "They were selling food and water to us. We prepared for only three days' journey, but we were now in our tenth day at sea."

Mr Berry had jumped from the ship as it was forced to leave Takoradi for a second time on Monday night. He and 146 other Liberian and 126 Ghanaian refugees leaped from the Nigerian freighter on

to an accompanying medical barge, which was then forced to take them to shore. "We told the Ghanaian Navy to send us to land or kill us," Mr Berry said.

He said there was a "handful" of uniformed African peacekeepers on the Bulk Challenge who were sleeping in new cars which they had traded for arms before boarding the ship.

Kojo Essel, a Ghanaian carpenter who had been in Monrovia searching for relatives, said he jumped off the ship when he found that his own government would not help him.

Mr Essel said one man died of starvation and another woman of unknown causes during the journey that began in Monrovia on May 5. "Because we had been sleeping on the bare iron, most of them are suffering from lung diseases," he said.

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Vertical text on the left margin: "Spanish heir eyes a Georgian peach", "gourmet truffles", "kia months rental", "LIMITED OFFER £4.99", "0 000 800".

Make decadent waves

Grace Bradberry finds out what's hot and what's not on the beach this summer

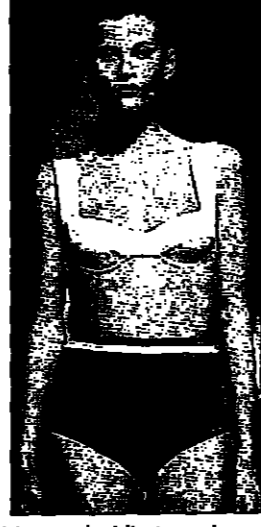


Triumph Amourette two-piece with detachable straps (£39) and Amourette one-piece with Lycra (£45)

OFF THE CATWALK



Hermes: white Lycra cutaway suit



Ferre: blue and white two-piece



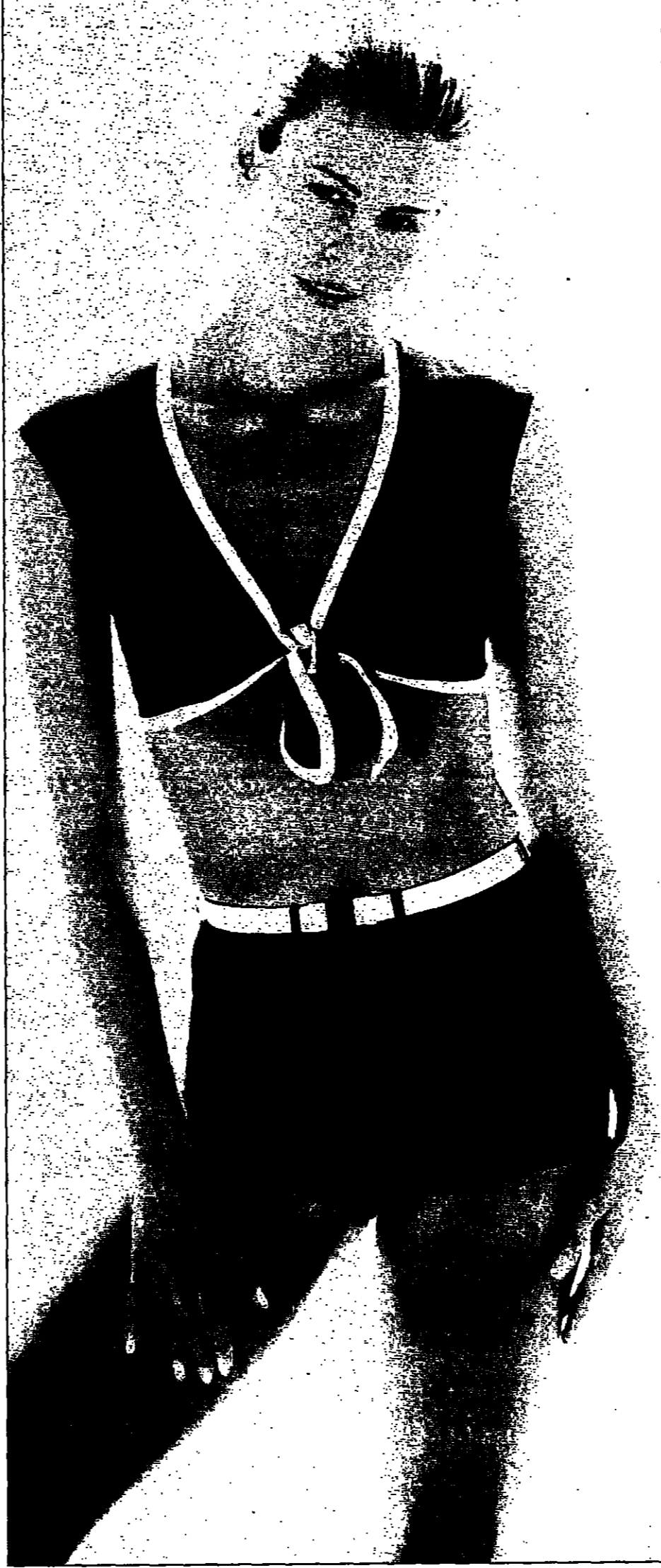
Bella Freud: Fifties-inspired bikini



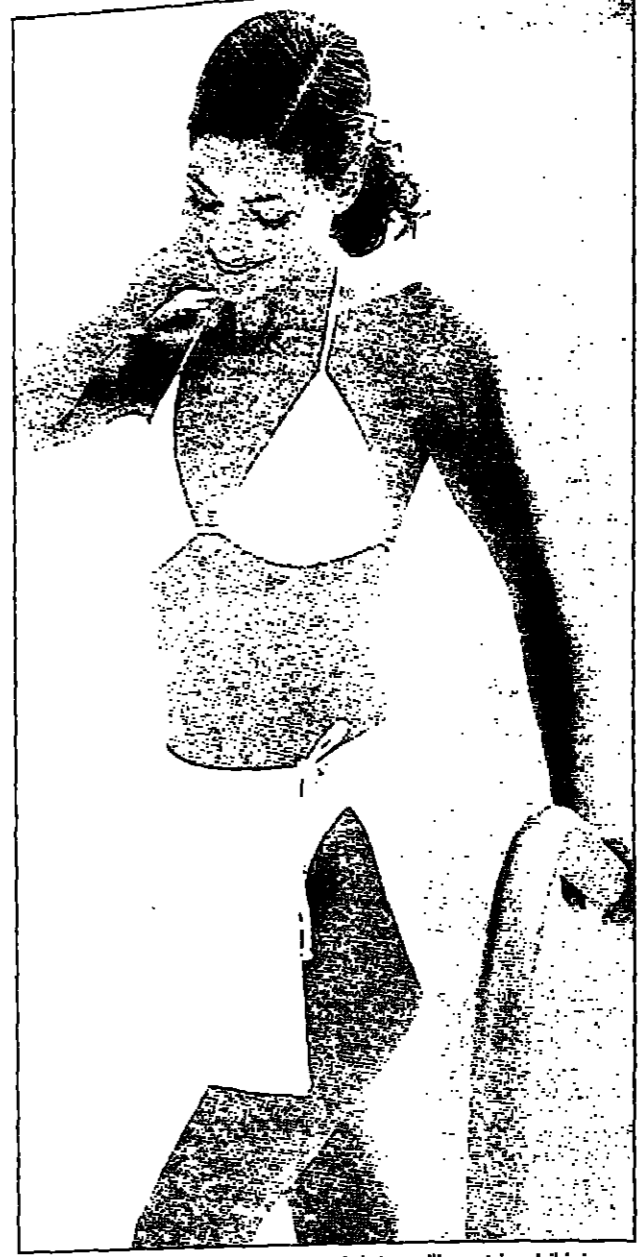
Iceberg: lime print bikini



Bhs black sports bikini top (£10) and black bikini swim skirt (£12) from the mix and match range



Marks & Spencer tie front bikini top (£10) and high-leg brief (£10). Belted one-piece with boy-legs and conventional one-piece also available



Next/Next Directory baby pink toweling string bikini (£19.99) and skirt (£9.99)



Knickerbox fruit print swimsuit (£27.50), also available in underwired bikini (£25)

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HERE COMES summer DAY THREE



Looking for an overall direction in swimwear can be a confusing business. For a long time now, we have not so much basked as covered beneath the shadow of Elle Macpherson, Cindy Crawford and their ilk — Amazonian women custom-made for the sporty look.

Some designers have been dipping into the past for a while, but glossy one-pieces with a modern, Californian feel have tended to dominate. But now it seems that the tide really is turning, and this season could be a high-water mark.

Above all, suggests Plum Sykes, a Vogue fashion writer, designers are moving away from the preoccupation with tight, high-cut one-pieces towards something less overtly sexy. "The classiest bikinis are definitely the ones with shorts. There are also lots of halter-neck bikinis and hipsters. Overall, the designs reflect a mixture of the Fifties and Sixties and Twenties and Thirties," she says.

The high street chains have picked up on a handful of the striking shapes and patterns that appeared on the catwalk for this summer. Boy-legged swimsuits, string bikinis teamed with skirts or shorts, and hipster-bikinis are the key silhouettes. Some of the references verge on parody. One or two designers have clearly watched *Dr No* recently, and the image of Ursula Andress emerging from the waves looms large. Archive photographs of bright young things before the war also find an echo.

Ultimately, of course, it is the customer who decides what makes it onto the beach. Knickerbox is selling more bikinis than anything, and

swimwear designer Sam de Teran also points to teeny-weeny two-pieces as this season's direction. Sam de Teran claims these styles are more wearable than they might look. "String bikinis may be unforgiving," she says, "but if you team them with a little skirt they allow you to tan the top half, but not feel exposed."

Most designers (among them Bhs, Marks & Spencer and Dorothy Perkins) have introduced mix-and-match ranges. On the page, overly retro styles can give a false impression, says Jo Dyson, swimwear buyer for Harrods. She has been distressed to see women with larger thighs squeezing into the boy-leg styles. "People see them in magazines and decide that it's a flattering shape. But actually they look good only on the very slim-legged," she says. In the end, it is the under-25s who are buying the retro-styles.

One of the most exciting features this summer is the

way in which a sense of fun, even decadence, has returned to beachwear.

Versace led the way last year with a collection of toweling separates decorated with kitsch fruit designs. This summer Bella Freud produced her own interpretation of the look, a bold red, white and green fruit design.

Two-tone suits with contrasting edging also made the transition from the catwalk to the shops. But while Iceberg's green and white skirted bikini, with white tipping, harked back to the Fifties and was resolutely kitsch, Marks & Spencer opted for good taste. Its black and white Riviera-style swimwear looked back to the Thirties.



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Is the lord really playing God?

Lord Winston's offer of treatment to an HIV-positive woman has been widely condemned. But is it perhaps his critics who are arrogant

Scene: Outside the Pearly Gates. One doctor, newly deceased, approaches and is forbidden entry. He remonstrates, but to no avail. After a while a second doctor comes up and is also turned away. The same happens to a third doctor. The three are standing resentfully outside the portals when a fourth doctor sweeps up, his white coat flapping, his stethoscope like a medalion against his chest. St Peter rushes to open the gates and the doctor is ushered through them. The three rejected doctors complain: after all, why should that doctor be allowed through when their credentials were not deemed worthy. "Oh," says St Peter, "that's God, he just thinks he's a doctor!" Perhaps there is a bit too much of the student revue about that joke, but I can see why doctors might laugh ruefully at it. I'm not sure, right at the moment, how funny Professor Lord Winston could find it. There is scarcely a commentator who doesn't disapprove of his decision to give infertility treatment to a woman with HIV. And all of them condemn him for "playing God".



Nigella Lawson

We all have a clear idea what we mean by the idea of "playing God" but I don't believe the concept makes sense. After all, if we believe that doctors are appropriating divine status whenever they give treatment that attempts to change the course nature, then the only logical response we have, all of us, is to become Christian Scientists. Not many people would think of accusing a doctor of playing God if he removed an appendix, and yet without intervention anyone with appendicitis might well die of it. Unless we are quite half way round

the bend already, we don't accuse a doctor who thus saves someone's life of arrogantly presuming to do God's job better than he is doing it himself. I'm sure that in many cultures the very idea of a heart transplant operation would seem shocking — positively blasphemous — but in our culture we would generally regard such a re-creation as primitive. So why, whenever a doctor does something of which we disapprove do we accuse him or her of arrogance, of playing God? There seems to be rather more arrogance assuming that our opinions are one and the same with God's will.

As a committed atheist, I can see that my views on a non-existent God's putative plan are not to the point, but in medicine, God tends to be invoked not so much as a deity with a particular project, so much as the moral force of nature. But medicine must often argue with nature: infertility treatment itself would have no place in a world that thought that doctors had no business meddling with the state in which people find themselves naturally.

Now, I may not be religious, but Lord Winston is: and as a devout man, he is entirely satisfied that his behaviour is not contrary to the strictures of what is a pretty exiguous faith. His article yesterday was persuasive: for him it would have been unethical to let prejudice prevent his treating his patient; and whatever else, Professor Winston is a man of integrity. On learning of the case, I couldn't help but spontaneously disapprove. On reading his account, I don't necessarily change my mind, but I see that his reasons for offering



Professor Lord Winston: scarcely a commentator doesn't disapprove of his decision to give infertility treatment to a woman with HIV

treatment were honourable; those who condemn him as a publicity-hungry controversialist discredit only themselves. Surely we should all accept that he is in a better position — from his clinical experience and his deeper knowledge of this particular case — to decide what he thinks is the right thing. And yet, and yet... as much as a doctor believes that his duty lies in treating patients without prejudice, there are always choices. Unfortunately many of these choices recently have purported to be ethical ones when in reality the considerations

have primarily been financial. Many of those who have been rejected as unsuitable for IVF must be smarting at Lord Winston's decision. Perhaps it would have been better for them to have been told in the first place that it was simply lack of funds which prevented their having the treatment. Doctors do, on the whole, feel better justifying their decisions morally; so often an unattractive amount of pontificating on and judging of potential patients does go on. But at other times, some sort of cold appraisal must be necessary. Lord Winston is right to say

of someone like him, should be less ready to pronounce so brusquely. A familiar theme of his detractors is the selfish insistence of every woman that she has a "right" to have a child, but I have yet to hear any infertile women speak of demanding her rights. Rather the talk, unbearably moving, is about passionate desire and yearning. These are desperate women who are prepared to take desperate measures. We might disagree with them, we might wish to condemn them, but I really feel we should try, at the same time, to understand them.

But the hardest part of Lord Winston's job must be in turning people away. I don't see how you could do what he does and not want to treat everyone. Those of us who have never needed to seek the help

Sporting strife, continued

I WILL defend the BBC and the licence fee that subsidises it until my last breath, but I could have wished to find my loyalty a little less stretched.

A week or so ago I railed against the idiotic prominence given to sport and at the insistence that the games boys play have a wide-reaching significance that we must all respect. Well, things never get any better. Now, it appears, the BBC has paid unprecedented sums just so that our every waking hour — and some of our sleeping ones — will be filled this summer with football matches, obscure Olympic events and other sporting occasions.

Soap operas, sitcoms, regular programmes must all be shunted aside to make way for this saturation coverage, but just in case you could even think of accusing the BBC of blokeishness, it has decided to demonstrate its good faith by promising that female presenters will feature prominently in these programmes. If anything were proof of puerility, this would be it.

The strangest thing is that the BBC and ITV appear to be in cahoots over this. Now, I know that what drives them into each other's arms is fear of cable sport, after all, is what lures people to satellite TV. But I think this move might well send the rest of us over.

A campaign lost in the haze

A REPORT — admittedly one financed by the tobacco industry — is just out that declares there to be no link between passive smoking and cancer. Of course, one would want to make sure such findings were bona fide, but presuming they are, surely it comes as something as a relief.

It would, after all, be good news. But not for the anti-smoking lobby, which is furious at the very suggestion that other people's tobacco smoke might not give innocent bystanders painful, terminal illnesses.

You see, lung cancer is good for the anti-smoking brigade in much the same way that an oil slick is good for environmentalists. Too much good intent can evidently warp the mind.

How we left a medium pale and frightened

I have tried to like *The X-Files*. For several weeks I have sat in front of the television at the appointed hour, willing myself to believe that there is something out there — but to no avail. Tosh, says a voice in my head. Rubbish. Green slime from the special-effects department comes cheap.

When I was younger I sat around the odd campfire too, listening, in the crepuscular evening, to tales of long-dead pioneers who could still be seen in these very woods. I didn't like to say that it might just be the wind in the pines, for fear of breaking the mood. I tried the harder stuff: M. R. James and *The Shining* too, but remained what I am still today: a sceptic, unwilling to accept notions of other worlds, parallel universes, spirits and sprites until I am offered the kind of evidence that fills test-tubes and makes pie-charts.

Which is why I don't know what to do with — how to categorise — my memories of Betty Shine.

Betty is a medium. The very word makes me, and legions of other sceptics, I am sure, roll the eyes in exasperation. I think myself far too hard-headed for that kind of nonsense. But I met Betty some years ago, and although you may argue that 16 is an impressionable age, or that a teenager's memory is a volatile, unreliable thing, it is hard to explain what I know happened that afternoon.

There were five of us: myself, my beloved friend, her sister, her cousin, and Betty.



We had gone to look at a house that Sister wanted to buy. She had heard that Betty was able to sense the auras of houses, and wanted to know whether it was a good house, a sick house, or whether it needed spiritual cleansing; she thought it would be a good thing to have Betty along. Beloved Friend, Cousin and I thought this was somewhat cranky, but saw no harm in it, and off we went. It was a beautiful afternoon. The house was deserted: Cousin picked the lock on the kitchen door to get us in. The last occupants, squatters, had left mannequins in the rooms, their peacy limbs at odd angles, their faces blankly affronted. I thought it was a creepy place; I would never have bought it. But Betty pronounced it peaceful and pleasant, and pointing out of the window at an expanse of lawn, indicated where a pond and a well had once been. Later we found the old plans of the house: she was right.

What the clairvoyant Betty Shine saw one night had a dramatic effect upon her, remembers Erica Wagner

Closing the door as best we could, we retired to a nearby pub for rounds of crab sandwiches. When our plates were empty and London beckoned, Cousin asked Betty to read each of our palms.

Now, Betty — despite her Dickensian name — doesn't look like a palm-reader. She looks like the aunt you always wanted but never had: sensible and wise and kind. As such an aunt would, she demurred, saying her skill in palmistry wasn't a parlour-trick. She didn't look, to me, like she would be able to read palms: everyone knows that palmists wear veils and have crystal balls, and make vague predictions about the years to come in foreign accents that Henry Higgins himself could never have placed. But Cousin persevered, and Betty gave in.

We put our hands on the table in turn, palm up. First Sister, then Cousin, then me. I don't recall what she said about my future — the future is a faraway place when you

are 16, and I could hardly believe that what she said would matter. But when she spoke about my character and my past from what she saw — so it seemed — in the lines of my hand, she then seemed to be a true seer. How did she know what no one else around that table knew? About my parents, about my childhood, about the self that even at 16 one tries to keep hidden?

Even then I thought that it had to be some kind of trick, but how could such a trick have been accomplished? She was serene, and what she said was the truth. I stared at her, and looked hard at my hands, but there were no secrets there to my eyes. Betty writes about the Third Eye, and it doesn't mean much to me. But it is more than just a parlour-trick to be such a judge of character on an hour's acquaintance.

Finally it was the turn of Beloved Friend. Betty took Beloved Friend's hands in hers and turned them upward: and then she went quite white. She really did; just like it happens in novels, all the blood drained from her rosy face, and a little frightened, and very embarrassed indeed. She looked at Beloved Friend as if she had seen the Devil. "These are your friends and family," said Betty. "I can't say anything. Not here." She let go of Beloved Friend's hands and they hung for an instant over the table like they did not belong to her. Then she tucked them back into her lap.

We were all embarrassed. We didn't know where to look. The afternoon was spoilt. But



When Betty Shine spoke about my past and my character — about the self I tried to hide, she seemed a true seer

no one said anything more and we went our separate ways; Betty left us and Cousin, Sister, Beloved Friend and I drove back to London in silence. For the most part I forgot about that afternoon. There were more important things to think about.

But I recalled it, some months later, when I fell out with Beloved Friend. A very polite and English phrase, "fell out"; but it was more than that. Sometimes people drift apart: sometimes they argue; and sometimes the breaking of a friendship is a kind of seismic rift from which you never really recover, however

much you may heal. The whole landscape has changed and nothing is ever the same. It's a long story, and I don't claim to be blameless; but I remember Beloved Friend's hands hovering over the table, and Betty's pale face.

My Life as a Medium by Betty Shine is published by Thorsons (HarperCollins) on May 20, price £15.99

Turn to pages 24 and 25 for the Media and Marketing section

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Alan Coren



The origin of specious restoration is the descent of home into heritage

Unless you are the sort of crackpot fundamentalist who likes nothing better than to curl up in front of a roaring diatribe with the collected works of William Jennings Bryan, you must have been as distressed as I to learn that Down House was to be not merely restored to its original state...

That this should befall the hallowed bolt-hole where Charles Darwin dashed off The Origin of Species strikes me as quite appalling. Could there be a more flagrant insult to his memory, or a more cavalier rejection of all he was and did, than for a quango ex machina to stick its oar in with the express object of thwarting the evolutionary process which governs every British species of the genus Residencia domestica?

Look again at the snapshot and mark those sad old french windows, now artificially excluded forever from that process of natural selection - be it from a gorgeous full-colour brochure or simply thanks to the random chance of qualified representatives just happening to be in the neighbourhood...

Tragic? It gets worse. Remember, friends, Down House is no ordinary residence, it is a monument, a shrine, an icon, a cultural landmark, and being open to the public, it is thus bound to attract only visitors who would not touch it with a bargepole unless they were offered something more than the opportunity to stare at a spotty desk where an old bloke sat thinking about monkeys...



Peter Brooke after David's 'Death of Marat'

Accountable to nobody

Clare Spottiswoode is the Joan of Arc of privatisation. With a flaming gasolier in her hand and a mystic Ofgas rampart on her shield, she charges into the deepest sleaze...

The privatisation of the public utilities was a con - as Clare Spottiswoode's devastating five-year gas plan proves

Anyone who believed Margaret Thatcher when she said she was privatising British Gas was a fool. She was raising cash while bringing the gas industry under more rigorous Whitehall control than ever before.

That boss is not some titular chairman. It is Clare Spottiswoode. She is also non-parliamentary minister for gas. By comparison, the formal chairman, Richard Giordano, is a cipher.

To the board of British Gas, this is the commercial equivalent of a nuclear wipe-out. Ms Spottiswoode has torn up their corporate plan and written her own. She has in effect branded the British Gas board as liars and their shareholders as gullible fools.

Except that she is not playing God. She is playing that subtle mix of politics and control beloved of the British Civil Service.

The late Nicholas Ridley's celebrated Utilities which we intend to privatise are more easily controlled when they are in the private sector.

Ridley meant Treasury control. What has happened is regulator control. The curiosity of Ms Spottiswoode's position is that she is beyond control. She need not conform to any central plan.

When Ms Spottiswoode took over from Sir James McKinnon, the gas industry regarded it as a "change of government without an election". Her views were diametrically opposed to his.

As with Dame Shirley, so with British Gas, an unaccountable public official can damn the reputation of public figures without a court hearing or witnesses summoned and cross-examined.

To search for a path of democratic accountability through all this is to sink into a bog in a thicket in a fog. The company can appeal against Ofgas to the Monopolies Commission (the bog).

Spottiswoode confessed that it amounted to "in truth very little". She supplies a report each year to Parliament - but, she added, it is not worth the paper it is written on and goes virtually unread.

What is clear is that for Treasury control of energy policy has been substituted, not the stern helmsman of the market, but a discordant choir of bureaucrats.

We are back with the old story. You cannot paint spots on a tiger and call it a leopard. The privatisation of the public utilities was a con.

The Government has thus achieved the near-impossible. It has found an even more incoherent form of nationalisation than it inherited.

Labour is bound to change this. It has no hang-ups about "arm's length". It believes in price control and planning. In power, it would regulate the regulators.

As for Joan of Arc, if a minister comes and shoots her horse from under her, she can always turn democratic and find a new seat in Parliament.

Simon Jenkins

Dewar, Labour's chief whip. "It was a mistake for which I take entire responsibility, but we have now put it right."

Brown, however, is unrepentant. "No one told me about an agreement between the front benches," he said yesterday.

Spook TV

MY COLLEAGUE Matthew Parris recently compared Blair's new Labour clan to the ghoulish Adams Family.

Yesterday the Labour leader spoke of his recent trip to America, where he discovered that Prime Minister's Question Time enjoys a big cult following on cable TV.

Ne'er a drop

YORKSHIRE WATER'S bottomless well of embarrassing bungles shows no sign of running dry. There has been uproar in Grims-



Next time he goes to France, Major is in for frog's legs

by, which has been plastered with posters advertising the current hosepipe ban imposed by the water authority.

Unfortunately, Grimsby is not served by Yorkshire Water, but Anglian Water, and does not have a hosepipe ban.

P.H.S

Labour must make them work

Gordon Brown on a new deal for the lost generation

Tough choices are essential if Labour is to solve one of the hardest social and economic problems of all: the crisis in education and employment faced by Britain's young people.

Six hundred thousand young people are out of work. A third of teenagers leave school without basic qualifications. A smaller proportion of 16 and 17-year-olds are in full-time education than any OECD country save Turkey.

The vision of a one-nation society and a stakeholding Britain can only be made meaningful for these excluded young people if we face up to the linked problems of education and employment.

Today, David Blunkett, Jack Straw, Chris Smith and I will show that we can solve this problem. But the solution will require tough choices about our public spending priorities.

Creating opportunities in education and work for millions of young people is Labour's goal. It will be the priority for Labour's first Budget in government, a Budget for hope.

Our objectives are clear. Every young person should have a skill and a qualification. Everyone under 25 and not in full-time education should have work and training.

First, jobs. In our inner cities, 25 per cent of young men are out of work. That is why, in order to start tackling problems of youth and long-term unemployment, Labour has announced a windfall levy on the excess profits of our utilities.

Second, we need to provide training for young people in work. Qualifications increasingly determine employment prospects and earnings.

This is why David Blunkett will today announce the end of Youth Training, and its replacement by Target 2000.

Third, Labour will make the battle against crime a central element of a new deal for the under-25s.

Most importantly, we cannot solve this crisis if so many young people continue to waste their school years and leave at 16 without qualifications.

Our public spending review for the post-16s is designed to use existing resources better so we can increase the staying-on rate at school and college.

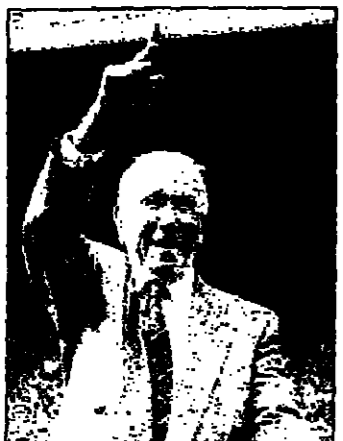
Labour's plan is nothing less than a radical redistribution of public expenditure in favour of jobs and education.

Our new campaign gives the lie to Tory critics who say that Labour is removing benefits for youngsters after 16 without announcing anything in their place.

The author is the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Team spirit

MANCHESTER UNITED Football Club's inexorable good fortune continues. A feature film is to be made about the team of the 1950s, which included the Busby Babes.



Sir Matt Busby and his body-double Sean Connery

players whose extraordinary domestic success was cut short when their plane crashed in Munich in 1958, with the loss of many of the stars.



grimmer lower division grounds in this country, it seems, have lost the grit of that era.

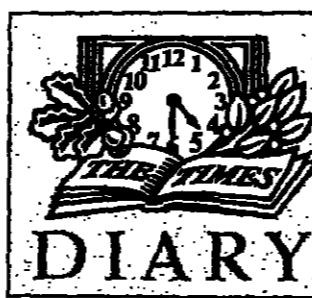
Then actors have to be found who can play football to a decent standard. Despite his cameo appearance in a French film last year, United's current idol, Eric Cantona, has been ruled out.

Swotting up

THE Princess Royal is repaying favours on her children's behalf. She has showered Peter and Zara's school governors with invitations to a soiree at Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh.

The headmaster of Gordonstoun, Mark Pyper, has received his call-up after his sterling encouragement of Peter Phillips on the rugby field.

Trevor McDonald made a reluctant departure from a fancy lunch yesterday to launch the latest of the Dom Perignon vignettes from Moët & Chandon.



'59, and I'll have problems presenting the news this evening. I hope there aren't any difficult Bosnian names.'

Whip hand

CONFUSION amongst Labour's whips. On Friday, they held up a Bill giving rights of British residency to 43 Hong Kong war widows.

As the Bill was read out, Brown - who was running the Labour show at the time - cried out "No".

THE FERTILE W... SORRY IS THE B... LATIN INTO Lighter thought...

هكذا من الأصل



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 14: The President of the French Republic and Madame Jacques Chirac arrived in London today on a State Visit to the Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.
The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, welcomed The President and Madame Jacques Chirac on behalf of the Queen at Waterloo Station.
The President of the French Republic and Madame Jacques Chirac were met by the Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

Memorial services

The Pilgrim's Progress. Sir Dennis Weatherstone gave an address. Among others present were:
Mrs Band (widow), Mr Ben Band (son), Isabelle Michael Wheeler-Booth, Clerk of the Parliament, at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Airedale held yesterday in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, Palace of Westminster.
Canon Donald Gray, Chaplain to the Speaker, officiated. Viscount Ullswater read the lesson and Lord Tordoff read from Hassard April 5, 1984. Baroness Secar gave an address. Among those present were:

Lord Airedale

The Lord Chancellor was represented by Sir Michael Wheeler-Booth, Clerk of the Parliament, at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Airedale held yesterday in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, Palace of Westminster.
Canon Donald Gray, Chaplain to the Speaker, officiated. Viscount Ullswater read the lesson and Lord Tordoff read from Hassard April 5, 1984. Baroness Secar gave an address. Among those present were:

Mr David Band

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr David Band, Chief Executive of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, 1988-1996, was held yesterday in Southwick Cathedral, the Provost of Southwick officiated, assisted by the Rev Keith Jones, Chaplain of Rugby School.
Mr Michael Hamilton read the lesson and Mr Donald Brydon, read from John Bunyan's

Dinners

Inter-Parliamentary Union
Dinner in honour of the British group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, was the host at a dinner held last night at Shepherd's Restaurant in honour of a parliamentary delegation from Poland led by Professor Jerry Wiatr, MP.
Foundation for Science and Technology
Lord Butler, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a talk dinner held last night at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Oxfordshire. Dr Paul Williams was the host.

Anniversaries

BIKTHS: Klemens Meierich, Cologne, Germany, 1873; Pierre Curie, physicist, Nobel laureate 1903, Paris, 1897; James Mason, actor, Huddersfield, 1909.
DEATHS: Alexander Cunningham, historian, London, 1937; Richard Wilson, landscape painter, Llanberis, 1782; Edmund Keay, actor, London, 1833; Emily Dickinson, poet, Amherst, 1862; Philip Snowden, Viscount Snowden, Chancellor of the Exchequer 1924 and 1929-31, Tilford, Surrey, 1937; Herbert Wilcox, film producer, London, 1977; Sir Robert Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia 1939-41 and 1949-66, Melbourne, 1978; Rita Hayworth, film actress, New York, 1987.
The machine gun was patented by London lawyer James Puckle, 1718. The first package holiday arranged by Thomas Cook set off for Paris, 1861.
The Australian Flying Doctor service was launched by Dr Vincent Welsh, 1932.

Birthdays today

Zara Phillips is 15 today.
Professor Sir James Baddeley, biochemist, 78; Sir William Bamford, former chairman, Ford Motor Company, 83; Mr D.M. Boston, former director, Horntown Museum, 65; Dame Eugenia Charles, former Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica, 77; Mr Michael Coghlan, MP, 53; Lord Darling, 77; Mr Ted Dexter, former chairman, England committee, TCCB, 61; Professor T.M. Dexter, haematologist, 51; Mr Peter Elwood, deputy chief executive, Lloyds TSB Group, 53; Mr Andrew Fargreaves, MP, 41; Mr R.A. Hough, writer, 74; John Lanchbury, conductor, 73; Lord McDonald, 80; Sir Frederick Mangel, diplomat, 83; Mrs Angela Read, former Headmistress, Felixstowe International College, 46; Professor P.A. Reynolds, former Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster University, 78; Mr Anthony Shaffer and Mr Peter Shaffer, playwrights, 70; Professor R.S.J. Sparks, geologist, 47; Professor Sir Eric Stroud, paediatrician, 72; Sir David Trippier, former MP, 30.

Lecture

Jenner Celebration Lecture and Soiree
The Princess Royal attended a lecture delivered by Professor Donald Henderson at the Royal Society yesterday to celebrate the bicentenary of Jenner's contribution to vaccination. The Royal Society, London, NW3.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.A.R. Backhouse and Miss S.L. Radhona
The engagement is announced between Nigel, elder son of Mr and Mrs Richard Backhouse, of Crowborough, Sussex, and Sharon, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Radhona, of Southwater, Sussex.
Mr A.J. Baker and Miss C.Z. Dinanage
The engagement is announced between Adrian, son of Mr and Mrs Leonard Baker, of Rochester, Kent, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Dinanage, of Horsham, West Sussex.
Mr C.D.P. Haddon and Miss C.M. Robson
The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of the late Captain and Mrs P.E. Haddon, of Holland Park, London, and Catherine, second daughter of the late Maurice Robson and of Mrs Anne Robson, of Bideston, Suffolk.
Mr P.J. Latham and Miss C.L. Blomfield
The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Latham, of Hale, Cheshire, and Clare, daughter of Brigadier and Mrs Richard Blomfield, of Charlton Parva, Dorset.
Mr S.D. Marsh and Miss P.S.H. Jones
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs John D. Marsh, of Leamington Spa, and Penny, daughter of Mr Dick A.H. Jones and the late Mrs Sheena Jones, of Sta Barbara, Portugal.
Lieutenant R.I. Williams, RN, and Miss E.L. Gilchrist
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mrs Nicholas Francis and stepson of Mr Nicholas Francis, of Dulwich, London, and Emma, youngest daughter of Mrs Tony Gilchrist and the late Squadron Leader Tony Gilchrist, DFC, of East Lydford, Somerset.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will attend a luncheon at the Baltic Exchange, St Mary Axe, at 12.45 to mark the inauguration of the new Tympanum; and, as Founder Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, will attend a world fellowship dinner at St James's Palace at 7.15.
The Prince of Wales will attend a council meeting of the King's Fund at 11.15 Grosvenor Square, W1, at 10.10.
The Princess Royal, as Patron of the College of Occupational Therapists, will attend the Developing Occupational Therapy Services in Primary Care conference at the College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, SW7, at 10.00; and, as Chancellor of London University, will attend the 25th anniversary of the signing of Heythrop's Royal Charter at 24 Kensington Square, W8, at 1.30.
The Duchess of Kent, as patron, will attend the public day of the International Social Service Spring Fair at Kensington Town Hall at 10.
Princess Alexandra will attend a dinner at Sotheby's at 8.15 in aid of Dr John Crown's Cancer Research Fund.

Queen's College, London

There will be a meeting of the Schoolmistresses and Governesses Benevolent Institution at Queen's College today. Sir Carron Greig will preside. The Annual Tea Party for the beneficiaries and the residents of Queen Mary House, Chislehurst, and other charities will be held afterwards. The President, the Hon Lady Goodhart, Principal of Queen's College, will also speak.

Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy

Alderman Sir Peter Gadsden, representing the Lord Mayor, and Lady Gadsden accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies attended the 32nd Annual Federal Service of the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy held yesterday in St Paul's Cathedral.
The Bishop of London and 10 other Bishops, 12 Aldermen and the Masters, Prime Wardens and the Upper Bailiff of 74 lively companies were present. The Dean of Westminster preached the Sermon. The Cathedral Choirs of St Paul's, Sheffield and Southwark took part with music from London Brass.
The Dinner was afterwards held at the Merchant Taylors' Hall at which Sir Peter Gadsden presided and Mr Frank Field, MP, was the guest speaker.

Appointments

Sir Henry Brooke, Sir Igor Judge and Sir Mark Potter, Justices of the High Court of Justice, to be Lord Justices of Appeal.
Mr Rita Vivienne Hale, Mr Roger Burton, Mr John Parkes and Mr James Andrews to be Public Works Loan Commissioners. Mr Anthony Latham to be Deputy Chairman of the commission.

Church in Wales

Diocese of St Asaph
The Rev John Tudor Hughes, Vicar of Holt, to be Vicar of Buckley; the Rev Richard Nigel Parry, Vicar of Berse and Southsea, to be Vicar of Holywell.

University news

Oxford
Ole Lando, External Professor of International and Comparative Law at Copenhagen Business School, has been appointed to the Heather Grierson Visiting Professorship in European and Comparative Law for the academic year 1996-7.
Merton College
Promotions to Postmasterships: Miss A.J. Field, formerly of Northampton High School, J. McManus, formerly of Tonbridge School.
Cambridge
Corpus Christi College
Elected into a Fellowship in Class A of Statute 31, and appointed Domus Bursar from June 10; Mark D. Bailey.
Elected into a Fellowship in Class B of Statute 31 from October 1; Jonathan W. Burton, for research in synthetic organic chemistry.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

BIRTHS
MORROW - On May 12th, 1996, to Helen and John, a daughter, Isabella Rose Morrow.
MORROW - On May 12th, 1996, to Helen and John, a daughter, Isabella Rose Morrow.
MORROW - On May 12th, 1996, to Helen and John, a daughter, Isabella Rose Morrow.

DEATHS
CALDWELL - On 13th May 1996, at home, aged 88, Mrs Margaret Caldwell (nee Huxley) of West Hill, Bournemouth.
WYLLIE - On 8th May 1996, at home, aged 88, Mrs Violet Wyllie (nee Huxley) of West Hill, Bournemouth.
WYLLIE - On 8th May 1996, at home, aged 88, Mrs Violet Wyllie (nee Huxley) of West Hill, Bournemouth.

DEATHS
RECHOW - On 13th May 1996, at home, aged 88, Mrs Margaret Rechow (nee Huxley) of West Hill, Bournemouth.
WYLLIE - On 8th May 1996, at home, aged 88, Mrs Violet Wyllie (nee Huxley) of West Hill, Bournemouth.

MEMORIAL SERVICES
ROWE - A memorial service for Dorothy Rowe will be held on Saturday 22nd June at 10.15 in the Chapel of Magdalen College, Oxford.
SILVER ANNIVERSARIES
DOYLE-BURNETT - On May 15th 1981, at St Nicholas, London, the Silver Wedding Anniversary of Mr and Mrs John and Mary Doyle-Burnett.
GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES
RAGHAWE - On 15th May 1946 in Wimbledon, London, the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Mr and Mrs Raghawe.

PERS
GIFTS
SERVICES
TUITION & COURSES
WANTED
OVERSEAS TRAVEL
FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
TRAILFINDERS

OBITUARIES

STANLEY REED

Stanley Reed, Director of the British Film Institute, 1964-72, died on May 4 aged 85. He was born on January 21, 1911.



STANLEY REED did not behave as if he was somebody important, but he was. During the years in which he was Director of the British Film Institute it increased tenfold, becoming an important force in British cultural life.

The National Film Theatre was a window onto world cinema, the National Film Archive was developed into one of the most important of its kind, the London Film Festival unveiled talent from all over the world and the education department became central to both teachers and students of film.

Regional theatres were also developed to provide an alternative programme to mainstream cinema, while the institute's prolific publications became essential reading for anyone interested in cinema. In the area of production, the institute — first through the Experimental Film Fund, then through the Production Board — gave many of Britain's best film-makers their first break.

Reed did not achieve all this by himself. Although a man of independent spirit, he surrounded himself with people who were equally determined and passionate about cinema. In his time the institute did not resort to the bureaucratic arts of evasion or tend towards aggrandisement rather than development.

Stanley William Reed was born in London's East End. His family were craftsmen. His father was a printer and one of his uncles a cabinet-maker who — as the bookshelves and fittings in Reed's home testified — passed on his skills to his nephew.

As a boy, Reed was something of a rebel, but he won a scholarship to Stratford Grammar School which, unusually for the time, was both progressive and coeducational. It was there that he met his wife, Alicia, one of his classmates, whom he got to know after he had knocked her over on the stairs.

Reed discovered an interest in photography at an early age, and the first of his many cameras was a home-made pinhole. He was also an avid reader who, by his own (perhaps apocryphal) account, would select a book from the local public library, finish it on the way home, and then turn immediately around to take it back and exchange it for another.

He went on to study at the College of St Mark and St John, Chelsea, where he took an external degree and gained a teaching certificate. But perhaps more indicative of what was to come was the fact that he founded the Students' Union, and formed a dramatic society, a choir, an orchestra and a tea club — all in the face of fierce opposition from the college principal.

He started his career as a teacher in West Ham, where he introduced film appreciation into his English class. During the war, he and his wife accompanied groups of evacuees and taught in village schools around the country. Their first daughter, Jane, was born during an air raid over Wellingborough in Northamptonshire.

In 1951 Reed joined the BFI as its first education officer. He travelled throughout Britain, lecturing, teaching and promoting film education, as well as completing books and other publications, plus television schools broadcasts on film analysis. In 1956 he was appointed secretary.

Film bureaucrats tend to like their film-makers to be either foreign or

dead — preferably both. Then they could be generous and enthusiastic. For Reed however, film-makers were kindred spirits and he strongly supported production. His judgment was impeccable. The list of grantees of the experimental film fund includes hardly a name that is not known in the business or beyond: Tony Richardson, Karel Reisz, Lindsay Anderson, Claude Goretta, Alain Tanner, Kevin Brownlow, Peter Watkins, John Irvin. He appointed Bruce Beresford as the first head of production, then Mamoun Hassan, whom he supported when the latter introduced a policy of financing low-budget feature films.

The reasons behind Reed's retirement in 1972 are not well known. Certainly, he would not refer to them afterwards, not even privately. Many people, in fact, were to consider the whole event a disgraceful episode. In 1971 there was an attempt to have him removed by the combined efforts of members of an action committee, of John Davis of Rank who was a governor, and of two film-makers who were also governors.

Reed, it seemed, had set himself on a collision course with the aims of the education department. One member of its staff was heard to say that he would prefer people not to see a film than not to understand why they liked it. Reed would have disagreed with this invidious view. John Davis, on a different tack, was no supporter of the expansion of regional theatres, while the film-maker governors wanted a change of personnel at the BFI's film magazine *Sight and Sound*, edited by Penelope Houston. They felt the magazine did not support British film-makers enough. Reed would not budge on any of these issues. But he had two heart attacks during the summer of 1971 and soon after that he announced his retirement.

As a boy, Reed had a profound interest in his neighbourhood. He was curious about the way it worked and explored everything from the sewers to the cemetery. In his later years he was rarely without a camera, continuing to explore the London he loved.

Stanley Reed is survived by his wife Alicia and by their three daughters.

SIR GAETAN DUVAL, QC

Sir Gaetan Duval, QC, Mauritian politician and lawyer, died on May 5 aged 65. He was born on October 8, 1930.



OF THE internationally known figures to have emerged in African politics over the last four decades, one of the most colourful was Sir Gaetan Duval. During his controversial political career in Mauritius he served as Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Minister of Tourism.

Although the island of Mauritius is in the Indian Ocean, and two thirds of its population are of Asian origin, politically it has always been regarded as part of the African continent. Duval served as a parliamentarian in and out of Mauritius politics from 1968, when the island — previously a Dutch, French and English colony — became an independent state within the Commonwealth. It became a republic in 1992.

Throughout, Duval maintained a personal following among the electorate, despite the vicissitudes of his career. At the general election in December 1995 he became the sole member of the Opposition, being allocated a seat in Parliament as a result of receiving the highest number of votes among the unseated candidates. From the earlier days of independence it had been assumed, on grounds of ability and charisma, that he would succeed Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, first Prime Minister of Mauritius and father of the nation as well as father of the present Prime Minister. But so wayward was Duval in his political allegiances — it was impossible at any time to pinpoint him on the Left-Right spectrum of political life — that he spent most of his years in Opposition, occasionally venturing into a coalition Government.

A Creole by parentage, Duval uniquely attracted widespread support, not just from the Creole community but from large sections of the Hindu and Muslim population, as well as from the Chinese and French settler minorities. His lasting contribution was to wean Mauritius

out of its one-crop economy of sugar. An irrepressible bon vivant, his flamboyance, coupled with his interest in international figures, including British royalty, suited him perfectly for the post of Minister of Tourism. Today tourism is the island's main source of revenue.

Duval's notoriety reached its peak in July 1989 when he was arrested for a murder committed 18 years previously. In the centre of Curepipe, the second town of Mauritius, in the middle of the island, a member of the left-wing party, Mouvement Militant Mauricien, was shot dead while sitting in a car, by someone travelling in a vehicle that had drawn up alongside. The shot was intended for the MMM's party leader, Paul Berenger, who happened to be absent that day from Curepipe. (He is currently Minister for Foreign Affairs in a coalition Government.)

Four men, known to be supporters of Duval's party, were tried and convicted of second-degree murder under the French criminal code. They were sentenced to lengthy terms of imprisonment. On his release from prison, one of the convicted men fingered Duval as the instigator of the murder. The prosecution of Duval was quickly dropped, however, and the ignominy of his arrest did little to dissuade a sufficient number of the electorate from voting for him to be appointed constitutionally to sit in Parliament.

Duval was knighted in 1981. He received several honours from the French Government. Gaetan Duval was married and divorced from an English woman by whom he had a son, Xavier Luc Duval, who survives him. Until last December his son served as a minister in the Jurgemouth Government.

ALBERT MELTZER

Albert Melzer, anarchist, died on May 7 aged 76. He was born on January 7, 1920.

CONVINCED that all privilege was the enemy of freedom, Albert Melzer devoted his life to class struggle and libertarian revolution. For 60 years he was a standard-bearer for the international anarchist movement, rebelling not only against the principles of monarchy and capitalism, politicians and bureaucrats, but also against the petty, opportunistic aspirations which sprung up amid revolutionary themselves.

His 60-year commitment to anarchism remained solid through all the vagaries and battles of the movement's history. He fought Oswald Moseley's blackshirts in Cable Street in 1936, he supported the anarchist communes during the Spanish Revolution and championed anti-Nazi resistance efforts in prewar Germany. During the 1960s revival of anarchism he fought off a neo-liberal moderation of his ideals holding through his hardline ideal, which was later to convince countless young people to become active

in the movement during the Thatcherite 1980s.

Albert Isidore Melzer was born into a Roman Catholic family living in Hackney. Although he attended Laymer Grammar School, Edmonton, he did not stay there long, and his education was largely completed by himself. Like his father, who scraped together enough money to support his family through a motley assortment of jobs — he worked as a salesman, lorry driver, tailor and even soldier — the streetwise Melzer was to negotiate his way through the Orwellian world of a *Down and Out* London, earning his living as among other things, a fairground promoter, warehouseman, theatre manager and, in later years, as a second-hand bookseller and Fleet Street copytaker.

He occasionally even worked as an extra in films, taking the part of an anarchist prisoner in Leslie Howard's anti-Nazi *Pimpernel Smith* (1941). Howard had insisted that for the sake of authenticity real anarchists should be used to play the concentration camp scenes. However, it was one of his schoolboy experiences which was first to steer him towards the far Left.



where his chief ambitions were always to remain.

At Laymer Melzer had learnt to box, though the sport was seen as "common" by the school governors and especially by the prospective Labour MP. At the age of just 15, attending his first anarchist meeting, he found himself sparring in an intellectual arena when he defended his sport against the doyenne of the movement, Emma Goldman. He became from then on a dynamic participant at anarchist gatherings, joining several far left organisations and contributing to a

small but steadily growing number of magazines.

In 1936, with the rising tide of anarchist-led resistance to Franco in Spain, Melzer became a vigorous supporter of the revolutionary cause. He committed himself not only to a propagandist level, helping to produce solidarity appeals, but also more materially. Along with Captain J.R. White he organised illegal arms shipments from Hamburg to Spain as well as acting as a contact for the Spanish anarchist intelligence services in Britain. After the collapse of the revolution he helped to rebuild anti-Franco resistance in Spain.

During the Second World War Melzer resisted being conscripted, registering as a conscientious objector. Later, however, he did serve in the Army and played a part in the Cairo Mutiny of 1946.

Towards the end of the 1940s Melzer found himself embroiled in the increasingly tangled tendencies of the far Left. At this time a neo-liberal trend of thought was beginning to dominate the anarchist movement. Melzer, adhering to his militant line, was passionately convinced that anarchism should not be

repackaged and marketed as a broader movement colonised by growing numbers of academia-oriented liberals and pacifists spawned by the disillusionments of war.

It was this, coupled with his later scepticism about the student-led New Left of the 1960s, which earned Melzer a reputation for sectarianism. However, it was this very tendency which was to convince many anarchists of subsequent generations to become active, and Melzer's headline convictions were to be responsible for bringing several recruits into the movement over the past 30 years.

In 1967 Melzer started a satirical magazine called *Cuddon's Cosmopolitan Review*. Two years later, in collaboration with Stuart Christie who had been imprisoned in Spain for his attempted assassination of Franco, he founded a prisoners' aid group, the Anarchist Black Cross. Its magazine was first published in 1968 under the name of *Bulletin* but two years later it became *Black Flag*. It is still printed today.

Together with Stuart Christie, Melzer also wrote *The Floodgates of Anarchy*, which was published in 1970. He then went on to write *The Anarchist in London, 1935-1955*, published in 1975, a survey of the early part of his own political career, which he followed up with his autobiography *I Couldn't Paint Golden Angels* (1995). Melzer also founded the Kate Sharpley Library, an archive of anarchist material currently based in Peterborough and probably the most comprehensive archive of its kind in Britain.

Melzer remained politically active until the end of his life, and even if his achievements could never have matched up to the loftiest of his hopes, he refused to relent in the pursuit of his ideals. He died after collapsing at an anarcho-syndicalist conference in Weston-super-Mare.

Melzer never married.

MAJOR-GENERAL DOUGLAS MILNE

Major-General Douglas Milne, Deputy Director-General of Army Medical Services, 1975-78, died on May 6 aged 76. He was born on May 19, 1919.



DOUGLAS MILNE had his name in the Army as a consultant in preventative medicine, called, in the old days, Army Hygiene, and later, Army Health. This came about because at the end of the war one of his early postings had been to the unhealthy climate of the Gold Coast. Milne pursued this specialisation throughout his military career, becoming Professor and Director of Army Health and Research in the Ministry of Defence before going on to be Deputy Director-General of Army Medical Services in 1975.

Douglas Graeme Milne — known by his friends as Dougie — was a modest, unassuming and enormously conscientious Scot. Yet, with a twinkle in his eye, he was always ready to puncture any pomposity. An Aberdonian, he was one of five sons of George Milne, four of whom became doctors. He was educated at Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, and read medicine at Aberdeen University, where he excelled academically and won a hockey Blue. A quick and agile man, he went on to represent the Army at hockey.

After qualifying, he was given a wartime commission in the RAMC in 1942 and, after serving as the regimental medical officer of the 5th Kings Own Shropshire Light

Infantry for nine months, he was posted to West Africa on the first of his many overseas tours. When the Second World War ended, he took a short service commission and was sent to Malta and Egypt.

By 1951, when his short service commission was due to expire, he had doubts about staying in the Army, even though he had enjoyed the life. He decided to try a civilian medical career and qualified for his DPH (Diploma in Public Health). Not surprisingly for a young man who had already seen something of the world, he found two years in a local public health department more than enough.

The shortage of army doctors in the mid-1950s, caused by the increased military activity during the early phases of the withdrawal from Empire, led to his being welcomed back into the RAMC with the grant of a regular commission as a major.

From 1956 onwards, Milne's career was a balanced mix of home and overseas postings: BAOR and Malta, 1956-60, as a major and the War Office HQ 1st (British) Corps and HQ Far East Land Forces as a colonel of the Army Health Directorate, 1961-71. He became a consultant in Army Health in 1964.

He joined the staff of the Royal Army Medical College at Millbank in 1971 as Professor of Army Health; and was elected FCCM (Fellow of the Faculty of Community Medicine) in 1972. Promoted brigadier in 1973, he was appointed Director of Army Health and Research in the Ministry of Defence, and three years later, promoted major-general, he took over as Deputy Director-General of Army Medical Services. In this post he served no fewer than three director-generals until his retirement in 1978. He enjoyed the additional distinction of being Honorary Surgeon to the Queen for the last four years of his service.

After he retired, Milne was Colonel Commandant of the RAMC, 1979-84. He rejoined the Ministry of Defence as a civilian medical officer in the medico-legal branch, dealing with the increasing load of medical litigation. His dry sense of humour, honesty of purpose and ability to take immense care in handling other people's troubles, made for success in this thankless task.

He married Jean Millicent Gove, a WRNS officer, in 1944; they had one daughter. Both survive him.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS: SWAN To Dick and Beth, a simple ceremony...

YOUR WILL: If you are making your will...

ANNOUNCEMENTS: ROYAL SOCIETY For the Provision of Crematoria...

ANNOUNCEMENTS: COUNTRY HOUSES Association...

ANNOUNCEMENTS: We will never forget you...

Remember The Donkeys And We'll Remember You! Over 6,700 donkeys have been taken into care...

ON THIS DAY: May 15, 1925. The best known of Haggard's books were set in Africa...

SIR RIDER HAGGARD: Sir Rider Haggard, whose death is announced, was one of the most striking, picturesque, and versatile men of his day...

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FLIGHTS DIRECTORY: AIRCRAFT, AIRPORTS, AIRSIDE, AIRCRAFT, AIRPORTS, AIRSIDE...

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GOOD

Why do the traditional universities still have such an advantage over their newer academic rivals?

BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT



HONOURS are shared among three very strong departments for the accolade of best business and management providers...

grades for its teaching and research. New universities rated excellent for business studies include Glamorgan, De Montfort, Kingston and Northumbria.

- 1 LSE
2 UMIST
3 Warwick
4 Lancaster
5 Strathclyde
6 City
7 Nottingham
8 Loughborough
9 Bath
10 Manchester
11 Oxford
12 Brunel
13 Cardiff
14 Edinburgh
15 St Andrews
16 Southampton
17 Sheffield
18 Surrey
19 Hull
20 Keele

HISTORY

TABLE-topping Cambridge came first among four universities recording the highest grades in both teaching and research in history...

fragmenting learning. Teaching assessments have so far only been made for history departments in England and Wales.

- 1 Cambridge
2 LSE
3 Oxford
4 Birmingham
5 King's, London
6 York
7 Sheffield
8 Swansea
9 UCL
10 Lancaster
11 Liverpool
12 Royal Holloway
13 Warwick
14 Durham
15 Sussex
16 Hull
17 Queen's, Belfast
18 Leicester
19 Bristol
20 East Anglia
21 Newcastle

GEOGRAPHY



THE ratings for geography are peppered with top-graded departments. Five universities...

assessors, a success reflected by an increase in the entry grades required. Its rating of excellent reflected a large proportion of distinguished researchers on the staff.

- 1 Cambridge
2 Oxford
3 Durham
4 Bristol
5 UCL
6 Edinburgh
7 Exeter
8 East Anglia
9 Leeds
10 Sheffield
11 Southampton
12 Birmingham
13 Nottingham
14 Reading
15 Lancaster
16 King's
17 Swansea
18 St Andrews
19 LSE
20 Queen Mary & Westfield

Playing the ratings game

John O'Leary explains how the department tables are compiled, and why they matter

The ratings game is gradually changing the face of British higher education. No matter how much academics may resent the snap judgments which emerge, universities cannot afford to ignore the official assessments of teaching and research.

Research ratings, which are being updated this year for the first time since 1992, have always had funding strings attached. Hitting the top of the assessment scale can add between £100,000 and £350,000 a year to a department's budget...

The teaching assessments do not yet bring the same budgetary rewards, but in many universities a top rating is equally coveted. Schools have become more aware of the system, and a verdict of "excellent" is an invaluable recruiting standard for any department.

Similarly, the few "unsatisfactory" ratings have had an immediate impact. Only 15 departments in Britain have experienced the sinking feeling that comes with a bottom grade, and each of those revisited so far has been upgraded. Indeed, postgraduate English at Exeter University, the only traditional university teaching to fall foul of the assessors, improved so dramatically before the required second inspection that it is now rated as excellent.

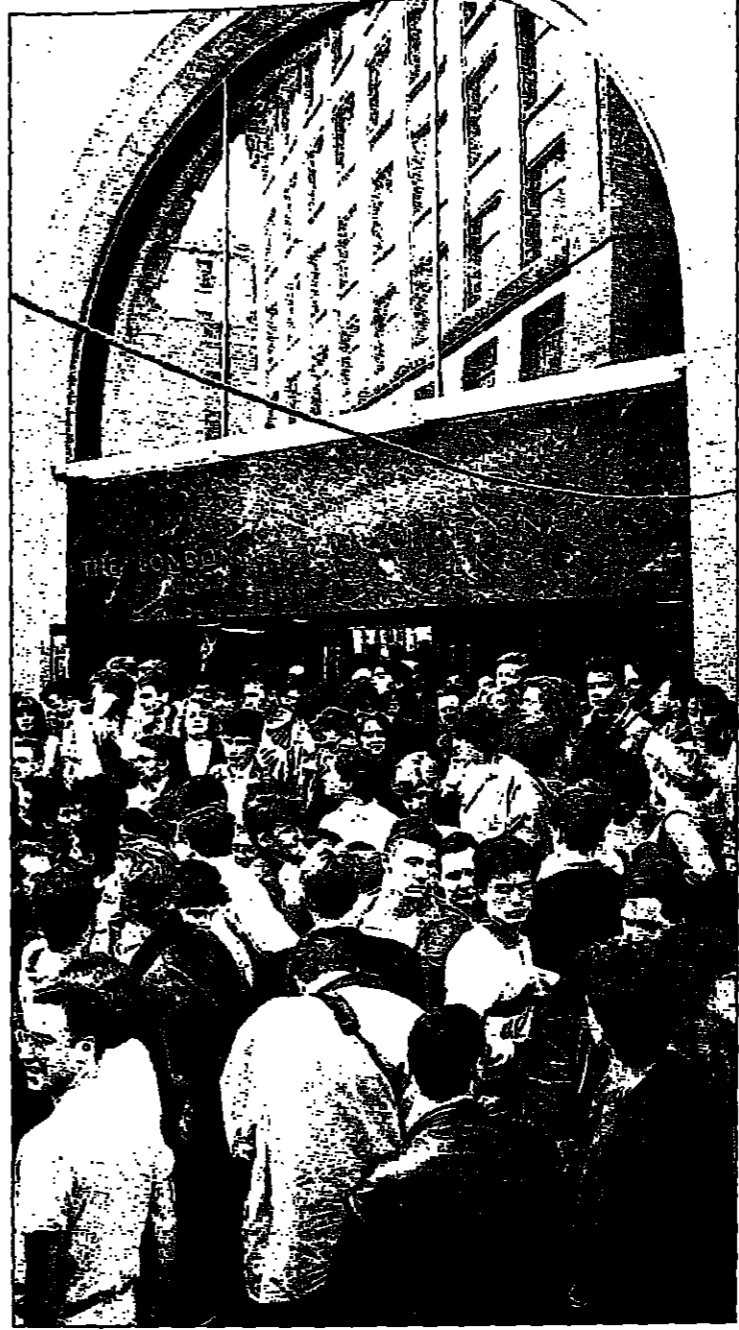
All others are now satisfactory, having convinced a second team that faults have been rectified. At Teesside University, for example, £10,000 was spent improving resources for English in the library and the curriculum altered substantially. Ironically, some students preferred the original course, but the revision impressed the assessors.

The ratings are only one part of the information available for prospective students. As well as institutions' own prospectuses, the Higher Education Quality Council produces "academic audits" of every university, which ensure that procedures are in place to guarantee acceptable standards.

But most readers will find the funding councils' assessments more user-friendly. The reports are available from the separate councils for England, Scotland and Wales. The three countries all differ slightly in their grading system. In the first round of assessments, England and



Two at the top: Cambridge (left) leads the field in eight subjects, while the London School of Economics is top for business and management



Two at the top: Cambridge (left) leads the field in eight subjects, while the London School of Economics is top for business and management

Wales used three categories, while the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council added a fourth, "highly satisfactory", option.

Vice-chancellors were so concerned at the likely effects of a system which rated the vast majority of departments as merely satisfactory that they fought a year-long battle to have the procedures changed. They feared that anything other than an excellent rating would come to be regarded as an indication of substandard provision.

The result has been a new, more detailed grading system for the second round of reports, which have already started to appear. Departments are rated on a four-point scale for the curriculum, teaching, student achievement, support and

guidance for students, resources and quality assurance. An unsatisfactory verdict in any area deprives the department of formal approval and triggers a second assessment.

The range of criteria goes some way to explaining why the teaching assessments have not produced the results that many observers expected. Rather than underlining the new universities' proclaimed strengths in teaching, they tend to continue the older institutions' dominance.

Many of the traditional universities have placed more emphasis on teaching in the last few years, but their superior facilities and better staffing levels give them an in-built advantage in most subjects. Nevertheless, some of the less fashionable universities have had the excellence

of their teaching confirmed by the assessments. Strathclyde, for example, has registered top scores in seven of the 12 departments assessed, a record matched in Scotland only by St Andrews.

The tables on these pages use a combination of teaching and research assessments, together with the average entry standards for each subject. The combination of indicators, which is less complex than last year's first attempt at the exercise, is intended to give a rounded picture of departments.

The rankings for social policy and social work, geography, geology and mechanical engineering vary slightly from the tables in the book of the Good University Guide, which will appear at the end of the month.

Extra information on entry standards, which has been added since the book went to print, has allowed these subjects to be updated.

Some of the subjects on these pages have not been assessed by all three funding councils. Reports on anthropology, English, history, law, social work and social policy have yet to be published in Scotland. The book of the guide will contain separate tables for Scotland in economics, mathematics, physics, civil engineering and electrical and electronic engineering.

Reports on departments in England and Northern Ireland can be ordered on 01753 31742. For those in Scotland, phone the SHECC's publications unit on 0131-313 6502, and in Wales 01222 761861.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

THE link between excellence in teaching and research is much less marked in mechanical engineering than in most subjects. Only Sheffield University achieved the maximum score in both areas, while four other top-rated research departments were considered merely satisfactory for teaching.

teaching, but low research grades robbed them of a place in our table.

Assessors found the strain on resources caused by the rapid increase in student numbers and the squeeze on university budgets was beginning to show in a large minority of departments. They added that too many students were dropping out in three out of five institutions providing mechanical engineering courses. The assessors also said the number of female students was low in mechanical engineering, ranging from none on some courses to 12 per cent at most. Schemes to attract more have met with little success.

They also said: "Total student numbers have increased during a period of declining applications resulting in broader entry standards and a

wider ability range." Students who graduate are being rewarded with high levels of employment.

- 1 Sheffield
2 Bath
3 Imperial
4 Bristol
5 Cardiff
6 Nottingham
7 UMIST
8 Hull
9 Liverpool
10 Southampton
11 Manchester
12 Strathclyde
13 UCL
14 Leeds
15 Newcastle
16 Loughborough
17 Birmingham
18 Glasgow
19 Aston
20 Queen Mary & Westfield
21 Surrey
22 Swansea

MUSIC



MUSIC is a new subject in our rankings. The assessment of teaching was not complete for last year's guide. The reports suggest that undergraduates are well served in British universities: there is an unusually high proportion of top ratings for teaching, even though top research grades are thin on the ground.

Although not one of the largest subjects, music is available at a wide range of institutions. The Royal College, Royal Academy, the Royal Northern College and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama were all rated as excellent for teaching. In Northern Ireland both

Queen's, Belfast and Ulster University managed the top rating.

Only Worcester College of Higher Education has been declared unsatisfactory.

- 1 Cambridge
2 King's
3 Nottingham
4 York
5 Brunel
6 Keele
7 Leeds
8 Southampton
9 Lancaster
10 Queen's, Belfast
11 Manchester
12 Oxford
13 Goldsmiths
14 Sheffield
15 Royal Holloway
16 Durham
17 Queen Mary & Westfield
18 Hull
19 East Anglia
20 Reading

SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL POLICY

EAST Anglia's pre-eminence in the area of social work was confirmed when it became the only department to receive top grades in both teaching and research.

assessed were described as satisfactory. Scottish universities have not yet been assessed.

The English funding council found the "long-standing binary divide" between polytechnics and universities was reflected in high scores for teaching quality and application of research at traditional universities and the diverse social work by the English funding council, including Anglia Polytechnic University, Huddersfield, Bradford and Ilkley Community College and West London Institute of Higher Education.

In Wales, all six applied social work departments as-

- 1 East Anglia
2 LSE
3 York
4 Sheffield
5 Hull
6 Kent
7 Keele
8 Brunel
9 Lancaster
10 Bath
11 Southampton
12 Bristol
13 Manchester
14 Cardiff
15 Birmingham
16 Leicester
17 Nottingham
18 Newcastle
19 Royal Holloway
20 Ulster
21 Warwick

LAW



THE Singaporean Government's schedule of British universities recognised for law, listed in The Times on Monday, has introduced new controversy into rankings for the subject.

Although all of the law schools on the island's "white list" appear in our top 20, two of the leading universities are missing. Both Sheffield and Warwick are among the top ten universities for law, judging by our combination of teaching and research grades and entry standards. But, despite being rated excellent for teaching, neither university has its degrees recognised for immediate admission to the Singapore Bar.

The "white list" was drawn up before teaching had been assessed in England and Wales. The process has only just been completed in Scotland, where new rankings are due before the end of the month. The timelag will raise further concerns about the basis for foreign governments' restrictions.

Five universities were given top ratings for both teaching and research in the Higher Education Funding Council for England's assessments. They were Cambridge, Oxford and three London University colleges: King's, University College and the London School of Economics.

Derby University received the only unsatisfactory rating, but the department has since been upgraded after a return visit by inspectors.

Traditional universities dominate the rankings for both teaching and research, but three former polytechnics have gained special recognition for their teaching. The universities of Northumbria, Oxford Brookes and the West of England, at Bristol, were all assessed as excellent.

In Wales, all five law departments were rated as satisfactory. In Northern Ireland, Queen's University, Belfast, won an "excellent" rating for teaching, narrowly missing a place in our top ten.

Law degrees command some of the highest entrance requirements in the university system. Some courses have 20 applicants to the place and demand at least three Bs at A

ARCHITECTURE



CAMBRIDGE remains in top place this year for architecture on the strength of its high entry grades and all-round excellence in teaching and research.

University College London was the only other institution to match its maximum grades in teaching and research. However, excellent teaching was also found at Cardiff and the civic universities of Bath, Newcastle, Nottingham, Sheffield and York, as well as Glasgow School of Art and Strathclyde in Scotland.

- 1 Cambridge
2 Cardiff
3 UCL
4 Newcastle
5 Strathclyde
6 Nottingham
7 Sheffield
8 Bath
9 Edinburgh
10 Liverpool
11 Queen's, Belfast
12 Manchester
13 East London
14 Kingston
15 Greenwich
16 Robert Gordon
17 Manchester Metropolitan
18 Oxford Brookes
19 York
20 South Bank

OXFORD'S highly qualified undergraduate entrants helped to put it into first place in The Times league for English departments.

Assessors graded its demanding undergraduate course excellent and found that graduates were more successful than average in obtaining highly competitive jobs.

English lectures were said to be "well-structured, lucid expositions of complex material, often delivered with verve and wit". Cambridge, in second place, was matched by Leeds, UCL and Sussex in being awarded the highest gradings for both teaching and research.

The English funding council awarded 30 departments excellent ratings for teaching and the Welsh funding council judged two as excellent. Scottish universities will be assessed for teaching quality next year.

Teaching was graded unsatisfactory at three institutions:

Exeter, for its postgraduate teaching; the University of Teesside and Chichester Institute of Higher Education. Exeter has since been upgraded to excellent. Teesside is to satisfactory, and assessors were revisiting Chichester this week.

Funding council assessors found that demand for English at all the top 20 universities was high. For example, there were 15 applicants for every place at Southampton, which required an average of 2.5 A level points for entry.

English departments were said to be diverse in their approach, with varying emphasis on knowledge of literature, skills in the use of English, and exploration of its cultural contexts.

Higher grades were awarded to departments which attracted capable, enthusiastic students, widened access to mature students, attached value to skills useful in employment, and had excellent staff-student relations.

Assessors said the integration of information technology within the curriculum could generally be improved.

For postgraduate courses, for example, they said that library provision was considered "barely adequate" in half of the departments visited, and specific preparation for employment was seldom found.

- 1 Oxford
2 Cambridge
3 Leeds
4 UCL
5 Birmingham
6 Durham
7 Liverpool
8 Sussex
9 Nottingham
10 York
11 Lancaster
12 Queen Mary & Westfield
13 Newcastle
14 Leicester
15 Sheffield
16 Aberystwyth
17 Warwick
18 King's
19 Royal Holloway
20 Southampton

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UNIVERSITY GUIDE

Plus where to find the best departments nationwide: our tables list the top universities in 14 subjects

...this term, next term, long term 

GEOLOGY

NFIVE universities with top research grades in geology added an excellent rating in teaching when the assessment of teaching quality was completed this year.

Cambridge and Oxford came out on top of *The Times* table because of their more stringent entry requirements. The others with maximum marks were Leeds, Liverpool and Newcastle.

Cambridge, which has one of the largest geology departments in Britain with more than 160 students, was praised in its teaching assessment for its high level of integration between lectures, practical work and tutorials.

Courses are assessed at the end of each year and field courses, while not compulsory, were taken by almost all students. The students were

said to be "forthcoming and articulate", attributes fostered by an emphasis on oral presentations and seminar participation.

Hull of Cambridge's geology students progress to higher degree courses.

Leeds, which has an even bigger department, was particularly praised for its rapid development of new teaching and assessment methods. Its modern and applied flavour was enhanced by strong collaboration with industry. Graduates were said to be held in high esteem by employers.

A total of 18 geology departments were awarded excellent ratings for their teaching by the English funding council, and seven were said to have outstanding research, with some of international quality, at the time of the last assessment.

In Scotland, the subject is taught at just four universities,

with Edinburgh and Glasgow rated excellent and Aberdeen and St Andrews highly satisfactory.

No departments in England or Scotland were found to be unsatisfactory.

The quality of geology teaching in Wales has yet to be assessed.

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|----|------------------|
| 1 | Cambridge |
| 2 | Oxford |
| 3 | Edinburgh |
| 4 | Leeds |
| 5 | Birmingham |
| 6 | UCL |
| 7 | Newcastle |
| 8 | Liverpool |
| 9 | Bristol |
| 10 | Imperial |
| 11 | Royal Holloway |
| 12 | Queen's, Belfast |
| 13 | Southampton |
| 14 | Durham |
| 15 | Leicester |
| 16 | Glasgow |
| 17 | Sheffield |
| 18 | Keele |
| 19 | Aberdeen |

Desperately seeking dons

When Dennis Kavanagh transferred to Liverpool, his move was likened to that of Stan Collymore, who similarly switched from Nottingham to Merseyside.

While the soccer star was signed to boost Liverpool's title hopes, Kavanagh, a politics professor, went to help to raise Liverpool University's chances in the fiercely competitive game of winning research funding.

Professor Kavanagh was one of many leading academics to change sides in the build-up to the Research Assessment Exercise. The assessment happens every four years and determines how government cash for research, this year worth £630 million, is shared among university departments.

The best of Professor Kavanagh's publishing record over the past four years will now count towards Liverpool's bid for funds.

"There has been an enormous amount of movement," Professor Kavanagh said. "Something like a dozen professors of politics have moved laterally, which is unusual."

Top dons are in demand because grades awarded in the assessment, based on academics' record and potential, translate to hard cash. Each department is judged on a scale of one to five, with a

David Charter on the research assessments

grade five attracting four times as much as a grade two, and a grade one receiving nothing.

Sixty panels will award grades based on four published works from each academic named by university departments, which must also detail plans for the future so the overall "research environment" can be assessed.

Professor Kavanagh's own move was partly as a result of his own desire to leave Nottingham; others have been poached more actively. Professor Michael Jackson left Hull University for the city's former polytechnic on the promise of a reported six-figure budget. He was further tempted by the chance to set up Humberside's school of systems and information science as dean, with the ability to pick a 35-strong research and support staff.

Activity has been particularly high in the field of education studies.

Professor Alan Smithers, the director of the centre of education and employment

research at Manchester, was lured to Brunel University in London along with the centre name. His assistant, Dr Pamela Robinson, is moving as part of the same deal.

University common rooms abound with tales of fantastic deals. Several stars are said to have secured non-teaching packages so they can concentrate on their lucrative research projects. Other perks include generous travel deals and relocation expenses.

South Bank University is prominent among former polytechnics seeking to reach the premier league. It has recruited 13 new professors, including several academics from older universities.

Gavin Mackenzie, a director of headhunters Saxton Bampfylde, said: "The newer universities tend to be saying they want a research reputation in, say, six subjects and ask us to find two or three more people."

The transfer deadline for the assessment exercise passed on March 31. One survey showed there was a 45 per cent increase in professors' jobs advertised in the year to last August.

The upheaval created by the assessment has been criticised but Professor Kavanagh believes some good has come of it. "Universities are creating opportunities which will encourage researchers."



Alan Smithers: lured to Brunel University, London

ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTHROPOLOGY is one of the smallest subjects to have been assessed, but it has among the highest success rates. Six of the 14 departments in England have top ratings for both teaching and research. They are Cambridge, the London School of Economics, the School of Oriental and African Studies, University College London, Manchester and Oxford.

Only three of the remaining departments have been rated as less than excellent for teaching. Queen's University, Belfast, Thames Valley and Goldsmiths' College have all been assessed as satisfactory.

The subject is yet to be assessed in Scotland. In Wales, Cardiff and Swansea both received satisfactory ratings for sociology and anthropology degrees.

- | | |
|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Cambridge |
| 2 | Oxford |
| 3 | LSRE |
| 4 | Manchester |
| 5 | SOAS |
| 6 | Swansea |
| 7 | UCL |
| 8 | Keele |
| 9 | Durham |
| 10 | Bristol |
| 11 | Goldsmiths, London |
| 12 | Queen's, Belfast |
| 13 | Oxford Brookes |
| 14 | Swansea |

COMPUTING

COMPUTER studies was one of the largest fields assessed in the first round of ratings for teaching quality. Yet only eight out of more than 100 departments achieved the maximum score for both teaching and research. They were Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Oxford, Warwick, York and Imperial College London.

The addition of entry grades to the formula used to rank universities here took the top of the pile. Taking account of the proportion of staff entered for the last research assessment also separated some departments from the rest.

Two departments received an unsatisfactory rating from their initial inspection. But Thames Valley University has already been promoted to "satisfactory" after a return visit by assessors, and Derby University is likely to follow suit when its second report is published.

However, the funding council's unusually trenchant report on computer studies teaching said there was "no room for complacency". Although ten departments only just missed an excellent rating, as many were "only just satisfactory".

Assessors were unimpressed with much of the equipment used in a subject that needs to keep abreast of continual and rapid development. "Assessment teams were critical, not only of the resources, but of pedestrian teaching, reduced opportunities for independent learning, limited opportunities for staff development and the arrangements for quality control."

About 40 per cent of undergraduates manage a first or upper second class degree, but the rate rises sharply in universities with high entry standards.

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|----|------------------------|
| 1 | Cambridge |
| 2 | Oxford |
| 3 | Warwick |
| 4 | Imperial |
| 5 | York |
| 6 | Keele |
| 7 | Edinburgh |
| 8 | Glasgow |
| 9 | Swansea |
| 10 | East |
| 11 | St Andrews |
| 12 | Bristol |
| 13 | Leeds |
| 14 | Royal Holloway |
| 15 | Sussex |
| 16 | UCL |
| 17 | Southampton |
| 18 | East Anglia |
| 19 | Newcastle |
| 20 | Queen Mary & Westfield |
| 21 | UMIST |

CHEMISTRY

OXFORD and Cambridge remain top of the league in chemistry, with Nottingham replacing Southampton in third place in this year's rankings.

The top ten reflects the dominance of the discipline of the traditional universities, with little change on last year. Leicester moves up to 10th and Glasgow to 14th, both from 18th equal.

However, the Oxbridge departments were not the only ones to record maximum scores for both teaching and research in a competitive field. The feat was repeated by Durham, Nottingham and Southampton.

Excellent teaching was also recognised by assessors from the English funding council at Bristol, Hull, Leeds, Leicester, Imperial, Manchester, Not-

tingham Trent, and the Open University.

Six of the 12 chemistry departments in Scotland were rated as excellent for the quality of their teaching, as were two departments in Wales, at Cardiff and Bangor.

The Scottish successes included departments at two new universities: Glasgow Caledonian and Robert Gordon in Aberdeen. The other excellent were at Edinburgh, Glasgow, St Andrews and Strathclyde, with both Edinburgh and St Andrews also receiving a grade four for research.

The English funding council found none of the 72 chemistry departments it assessed to be unsatisfactory, although the development of a wider range of approaches to teaching and learning was "disappointingly slow". In general, courses were often found to be delivered in a traditional "chalk and talk" method with more scope for allowing students to

lead tutorials, seminars and workshops.

Drop-out rates were "unacceptably high" in a minority of institutions, especially in the first year of courses. However many chemistry graduates were successfully going on to further study or employment related to their course.

- | | |
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| 1 | Cambridge |
| 2 | Oxford |
| 3 | Nottingham |
| 4 | Imperial |
| 5 | Durham |
| 6 | Southampton |
| 7 | Leeds |
| 8 | Bristol |
| 9 | Edinburgh |
| 10 | Leicester |
| 11 | Manchester |
| 12 | Strathclyde |
| 13 | St Andrews |
| 14 | Glasgow |
| 15 | Cardiff |
| 16 | Hull |
| 17 | Bath |
| 18 | East Anglia |
| 19 | Sheffield |
| 20 | Reading |

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

EAST Anglia retained its premier position in the environmental science league table by recording an excellent assessment in teaching to add to its top research rating.

Three other universities, Lancaster, Reading and Southampton, have also earned top marks in both areas, which are reflected in their placings near the top of the table.

Almost 70 per cent of the classes observed were considered excellent at Reading, where more than half of the graduates went on to do further research.

Reading was especially praised by assessors for its comprehensive library, modern curriculum and high-quality staff. The assessors said: "Favourable staff-student ratios confer considerable advantages and encourage careful recruitment, comprehensive induction and effective academic and pastoral support for students."

In all, 16 of the 55 departments assessed so far have been judged excellent for teaching quality.

Greenwich was one of the former polytechnics awarded an excellent rating for teaching, although its lack of a grading in the last research assessment precluded it from *The Times* top 20.

The only unsatisfactory grading awarded for teaching has been to North Riding College of Higher Education in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, which has since been revisited and is expected to be upgraded to satisfactory. The college reorganised its field and laboratory work and improved its library stock and other support services, as well as reviewing the curriculum. Plymouth, a former polytechnic, moved further up the table to 5th from 11th position last year. Its showing reflects a well-established reputation in

the field with particular strengths in maritime specialities. Another new university, Hertfordshire, which has high entry requirements, also rises into the top ten this year.

Stirling, in 6th place, was awarded an excellent rating for teaching by the Scottish funding council.

- | | |
|----|------------------------|
| 1 | East Anglia |
| 2 | Lancaster |
| 3 | Reading |
| 4 | Southampton |
| 5 | Plymouth |
| 6 | Stirling |
| 7 | Keele |
| 8 | Hertfordshire |
| 9 | Queen Mary & Westfield |
| 10 | Bristol |
| 11 | Cambridge |
| 12 | Liverpool |
| 13 | Bangor |
| 14 | Middlessex |
| 15 | Derby |
| 16 | Durham |
| 17 | Edinburgh |
| 18 | Sheffield |
| 19 | Sheffield |
| 20 | Sussex |

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TOMORROW

Looking ahead: the changes in store for students and universities, the subjects and universities giving the best chance of a job, and how new technology is changing higher education

Prime-time push for the presidency

"Okay, I'm working on it," said the cash machine from which I requested dollars in New York last week. But it will take more than a computer to help American television networks to solve the problem they are working on — one solved long ago, if imperfectly, in Britain. How to give presidential candidates free airtime to put their own case?

Obviously nothing as tedious as the British party political broadcast will be allowed on American television, where four commercial networks compete furiously for audiences. But something has to be done. Otherwise, only millionaires will be able to run for President, and the American public will know nothing more of candidates' views except what can be squeezed into a tiny soundbite or mocked in slick, insulting advertisements by their opponents.

The major American networks have good reason to try harder to beef up their serious presentation of the issues. They fear being blamed for the apathy, bordering on cynicism, of much of the American public towards the electoral process. They know, too, that they are already under fire from Congress, which has put them under orders to rate their programmes for sex and violence and to try harder to serve family values and education. And as commercial enterprises they want something very much from Washington in return: free use of the new digital television channels which, as in Britain, are seen as



BRENDA MADDOX

just around the corner. Washington might prefer to auction these channels off to the highest bidder.

But giving away valuable airtime is never easy. The idea of free television time for presidential candidates originated in February, according to *The New York Times*, with a speech to the National Press Club by Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of the News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, and of Fox, the fourth and newest of the major American networks. His offer still stands — an hour in prime-time on the Fox network on the election eve, to be shared by the main candidates, to allow them to present their own views uninterrupted by interviewers. During the month preceding the election, Fox would also air one-minute position statements from each candidate, in prime-time commercial breaks.

The proposal gained credence (according to *The New York Times*) when the venerable American broadcaster, Walter Cronkite, endorsed it. For a time the three biggest American networks held out. But by the end of last week all had submitted free-time plans of their own. CBS and NBC are offering various packages of times for

statements and interviews, tailored to their own programme formats and schedules. ABC proposes giving candidates an hour's live debate in the final week of the campaign. Not to be outdone, some of the smaller networks, such as CNN and the Public Broadcasting Service, have made offers of their own. Even Court TV says it will give each candidate three 15-minute slots to address crime and judicial issues.

The resulting hotchpotch hardly looks like progress. Every network is offering something different and seemingly incompatible with the rest. To take advantage of them all, a candidate would have to be on the screen practically all the time not necessarily a good way to win votes. So who will appear, when and for how long? A crusading group called the Free TV Coalition, founded by a former *Washington Post* journalist, is pressing for the networks to co-ordinate their electoral philanthropy. But getting synchronous political broadcasts across all networks seems a pretty vain hope. It will be an achievement merely to get agreement on who qualifies for free airtime. My bet is that American equivalents of the Monster Raving Loony Party will not get much of a look-in.

The worst scenario would not involve all the candidates accepting all the invitations. Nor would it be none of them accepting any. It would be the bolstering of a consensus that the interrogative journalist is an irrelevance: that political leaders are best left to explain themselves in their own terms. The sad thing is that no one expects this largesse of free airtime to halt or even reduce the number or sting of the so-called "attack ads". These, not allowed in Britain, are a source of considerable revenue for the stations that carry them.

But predictions are not impossible. For one thing, it seems pretty clear that American television, with its national reach and homogenised tone, cannot deliver informed debate on what promises to be the most divisive issue of the coming campaign: abortion. The depth of the division of feeling in America has to be seen to be believed. Some opponents of abortion will kill to defend the right to life, while abortion clinics publicly and frankly advertise their services. One poster on the New York subway offers abortion up to the 24th week of pregnancy, with consumer choice of "asleep or awake".

Another certainty about electoral coverage has bipartisan agreement. It is that television will favour the incumbent over the challenger. Bill Clinton, with his youth, high colour and country and western accent, is universally acknowledged to be made for television, while Bob Dole, sad to say, has yet to find the medium that flatters him.

Freshly squeezed OJ

O.J. SIMPSON's appearance on the Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan show was always likely to cause a rumpus, but one would hardly have expected Max Clifford to complain. Given the job of publicising O.J.'s British tour, he has already objected that our flabby presenters are too quick for his former running back.

"The interview was rush, rush, rush," Clifford complains. "O.J. was answering a question from one of them and the other would interrupt with another. He was not given a chance to answer properly. They asked too many questions." The publicist claims that he has since been inundated with offers from other interviewers, but not from his first choice. "Michael Parkinson, for example, would leave you feeling you had learnt something new about the man." Presumably why the O.J. camp is none too keen.

Oxygen of publicity

A PAIR of pushy Oxford graduates have attracted a glittering array of the university's media alumni to support their plans for Britain's first fully-licensed student radio station, Oxygen FM. They include *Newsnight's* Peter Snow, Magdalen College President Tony Smith; a former BBC producer;

IT IS hard to believe that *El Pais*, the Spanish newspaper that has just celebrated its twentieth birthday, is not at least a century old. For the newspaper, the emphatic Spanish market leader, has all the rigour, the consequence and — so its critics say — the dryness of a dowager.

Beginning with a circulation of 128,805, it now sells nearly 430,000 copies a day, a staggering number in a country where reading has never been a favourite pastime. Jesús Ceberio, the Editor, is only the paper's third, an enviable record of stability given Spain's record of striking and periodic political change — change from which editors on less durable newspapers would have struggled to insulate themselves. And little has altered in style since *El Pais* first splashed on its front page, in the faintly ponderous way which is its

THE LISTENER



A bit of a rush: Simpson found Judy and Richard too quick for him

Andrew Knight, a News Corporation non-executive director; James Arnold-Baker, chief executive of Oxford University Press; and Duncan Grey, series editor of *The Word*.

Philip Weiss, one of the PPE graduates behind the proposed station, clearly has the right idea about the way the world turns. "We realised that it would only be possible to raise financial backing if we used all the Oxford connections we could get," he says. Media moguls across the country are screening their incoming phone calls with care.

Richard Littlejohn of the Daily Mail, former Irritant of the Year, has been shortlisted as Bigot of the Year by the charity Mind for attacking £20,000 compensation awarded to a schizophrenic killer. Favourite for the title is Lenny Lyons of *The Sun* for a story about mad Somalians.

Yawning gap

THE appointment of a new media aide to the Prince of Wales later this week will leave a gaping hole at the top of the Press Complaints Commission. So

impressive are the PCC director Mark Bolland's Fleet Street connections, political savvy and notorious charm, that insiders are rumoured to be appointing two people to fill his boots.

Queen's English?

IN what could be the last Tory honours list for some time, three scions of the unstinting loyal Associated Newspapers are looking at their last chance in the payback saloon. A shortlist has the chairman Sir David English pencilled in for a peerage, the former *Mail* and *Sunday* and *Evening Standard* Editor Stewart Steven for a knighthood — and watch out for the Dame Lynda Lee-Potter column. To head glory on all three, however, would be too transparent and the red pen is out. Steven could suffer for his new association with Mohamed Al Fayed's anti-establishment publishing group, Liberty. And to heap accolades upon Lee-Potter in the last throes of government may be looked upon as a bribe. Only one of the trio may yet be useful next time around. Stand up, Lord English.

FESTIVAL-GOERS at Cannes this week were puzzled by the BBC's latest classical adaptation, *Jude*. The title of Thomas Hardy's Wessex judge, Jude the Obscure, was truncated as a palliative to American distributors, who feared the second part might be beyond the reach of US audiences. The bleak monosyllabic was, presumably, settled upon after rejection of such options as *Jude*, *The Not Very Well Known* and *The Invisible Jude*.

Twenty years in the country

EL PAIS

It is hard to believe that *El Pais*, the Spanish newspaper that has just celebrated its twentieth birthday, is not at least a century old. For the newspaper, the emphatic Spanish market leader, has all the rigour, the consequence and — so its critics say — the dryness of a dowager. Beginning with a circulation of 128,805, it now sells nearly 430,000 copies a day, a staggering number in a country where reading has never been a favourite pastime. Jesús Ceberio, the Editor, is only the paper's third, an enviable record of stability given Spain's record of striking and periodic political change — change from which editors on less durable newspapers would have struggled to insulate themselves. And little has altered in style since *El Pais* first splashed on its front page, in the faintly ponderous way which is its trademark, a story from Ramón Vilari, in Brussels, headlined: "The recognition of political parties, essential condition for integration with Europe."

Inevitably, it was seen as close to the Socialist Party, itself recently legalised. As Spain consolidated its democracy, the trajectories of newspaper and party appeared too often to coincide, giving its critics the opportunity to stigmatise it as the "official bulletin" of the Socialists.

YET such a label is as simplistic as it is inaccurate. *El Pais* and its editors have always been jealous guardians of their independence. Relations with the ruling Socialists have not always been smooth. A decade ago, it fell foul of José Barriónuevo, the former Inter-

rior Minister, for its criticism of his alleged role in state-sponsored anti-terrorist death squads: he took them to court, and lost. And in the run-up to the country's referendum on whether to join Nato — in March 1986 — it resisted pressure from Felipe González, the Prime Minister, to endorse the Government's push to join. The last example, however, provides evidence of its greatest weakness — a desire to rise above the fray. *El Pais* did not take a clear stand on the Nato question: can one imagine *The Times* failing to take sides on a similarly crucial question for Britain?

The earnestness of *El Pais* can also be seen on its opinion page. On its 20th birthday, for example, there was an ab-

struse essay by an Italian philosopher on "The end of employment", in which Hegel, Gramsci and Marx were all cited within a few lines. But the paper's strengths are so considerable as to render trivial these few quibbles. Its layout is limpid and elegant (Harold Evans, a former Editor of *The Times*, described the front page of *El Pais* on the day after a colonel of the Civil Guard attempted a coup d'état in 1981 as one of the best designed he had seen); its foreign news coverage is the most extensive of any newspaper anywhere and its political sketches are mordant and upmarket (Maruja Torres is Spain's Matthew Parris).

El Pais takes itself very seriously, of course. But then so does everyone else.

TUNKU VARADARAJAN

The author is the Madrid correspondent of *The Times*.

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Is th...
A...
Robin Wight on wh...

Is this Britain's ideal lifestyle?

As editor-in-chief of a home style magazine, Sally O'Sullivan influences thousands. She talks to Giles Coren

BRITAIN'S ideal home is just outside York. It is detached, has three to four bedrooms, a large garden, and something entirely new on the coffee table. *Ideal Home* magazine has been revamped, and in the new edition, launched this week with a £1 million marketing campaign, these details, and many more, of the nation's dream domicile are revealed in a reader survey.

The London residence of the new Editor-in-Chief, Sally O'Sullivan, however, is not like that at all. It is vast and maze-like, with a huge snooker room, dining and living rooms crammed with antiques and collections of oddities, walls groaning with pictures, and views over Holland Park square in west London.

Here she lives with her husband Charles Wilson, managing director of the Mirror group and former Editor of *The Times*, and their children Luke, 14, and Lily, 10. She had edited *Options*, *Riva*, *She* and *Harpers & Queen* before leaving *Good Housekeeping* in December last year (having added 100,000 to the circulation) to take the helm of *Ideal Home*, a 75-year-old IPC title, which looks to her to lead it through the battlefield of an ever more competitive market.

"Look how dirty the windows are," she moans, as the sun streams in, and illuminates not only the smears but dust in the air and in patches of overlooked furniture. "That is why this is such a good time for *Ideal Home*. It is only when the sun comes into the house for the first time that you really see it, and think 'God, I must do something!' That is why it is cheaper to spend all day in an office, and only see your home at night."

"I once took a month off work, and it was the most expensive time of my life." This certainly ties in with the magazine survey's revelation that 96 per cent of decisions on home decoration are made by women. "Charlie's priorities are the books, and his First World War stuff, but I choose all the colour schemes and fabrics."

And does Ms Sullivan, like 60 per cent of the women questioned, do most of the DIY? "We're not into DIY in this house," she says. "We're into PTN. That's Pay Through the Nose. Although Charlie is very good with Hoover belts and defuzzing kettles." While the Sullivan-Wilson house may differ in the specifics from the *Ideal Home* norm (how many have a 10ft portrait of themselves in a snooker room above?) she believes there is a revolution afoot that involves everyone.

"We have the same fascination with our home as the rest of the nation does. But the nature of that fascination has changed. Where people used



Style supremo Sally O'Sullivan lives among a dusty but splendid clutter of antiques and portraits. There comes a time, she says, when you can no longer change your spouse or your looks — just the house

to see their home as primarily the place where they live, now it is all about the way you live.

"At the end of a century, people are spending more time making decisions about where and what they are. They want their home to say, 'this is where we're at. This is us. This is our handle on life.' And magazines must reflect that. *Ideal Home* has kept all the information and consumer advice that was always there, but added 25 per cent more editorial, particularly in fashion, beauty and food."

"Home interest has become a huge area. From only five or six titles ten years ago, there are now 17 — too many players chasing too little money. So

Ideal Home must shift into a more general market."

Since her first editing job, in 1982, the women's magazine market has undergone radical change. "There was a time when you would have thought from advertising that all women did was shop, totter round the kitchen and clean lavatories, and wait for an authoritative male voice to tell them what to buy. Now she makes her own decisions. The consumer is queen, and understanding her is a fundamental part of the future."

While she claims that circumstances may not allow her to repeat quite the same success that she had at *Good Housekeeping*, she has rea-

sons for optimism. "Interest in homes is due for a resurgence," she says. "There comes a time in your life when you know you are not going to change your partner, or your job. The only thing left is to change your home. The core *Ideal Home* reader is 40. At that age you can't change the way you look, but a conservative here, a herbaceous border there..."

So from a position of such power over the consumer can she confess to any hideous miscalculations of her own? "Oh, I have thrown a lot of the mistakes away. I still have some chocolate-coloured bed linen, and a collection of snow storms which is now in the loo." But the most recent disaster was earlier this year.

"We kept featuring paint finishes, like rag-rolling, in the magazine, and I got very keen on the idea, so we had a man come in and do it in the dining room. But when I saw it I just said 'Yuk!' and had it painted over again. That is the problem with working in magazines: if you do it on the pages you think you can do it at home. When I was on *Good Housekeeping* there never seemed to be any food in the house. And then when Christmas comes around you would do nothing about it because you think, 'we did Christmas in August'."

"So when you are running a home magazine, and go back each night to a place that looks like a gypsy encampment, you are always surprised to find that it doesn't look like the lovely house you have just put in the magazine."



Snowbound: the loo hides a small and surprising secret

The archbishop, the beautiful editor and an unholy row

On the afternoon of April 30, Harry Coen, the acting Editor of the *Catholic Herald*, was suffering an editor's worst nightmare. The paper was due to go to press in three hours, his star writer hadn't filed her column and he was looking at a blank space on his main features page.

When the column eventually arrived, its content was explosive. Alice Thomas Ellis had written a fierce philippic on the reputation of an archbishop who had been one of the most prominent liberal churchmen in Britain, the late Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Rev Derek Worlock. She accused him of diluting the Catholic faith and blamed him for declining church attendances in Liverpool. Mr Coen, a veteran of *The Sunday Times* and *The Sunday Telegraph*, a cradle Catholic who was doing the job as a favour but was unversed in Catholic politics, knew he had a hot property.

His understanding was that Ms Thomas Ellis was leaving the paper. Why not let her go out with all guns blazing? He gave the piece a Fleet Street headline — "My War against Worlock" — and set the presses rolling.

What might have happened if Cristina Odone, the Editor on a sabbatical, had been in the chair. Understanding the sensitivities of the Roman Catholic Church and the subtle and unspoken influences put in play on editors who encourage dissent, she would probably have salvaged the article by turning it into a more generalised polemic and cut the personal attack on Worlock. Once the *Catholic Herald* was published, there was an outcry. Mr Coen quickly found that the politics of Fleet Street are gentler compared with the Machiavellian politics of the Catholic Church. The *Herald* is sold at the back of churches and the clergy can influence sales



PAPER ROUND Brian MacArthur

downwards as well as upwards. A week later he signed a long, front-page article apologising unreservedly for the "personal distress and sorrow" caused by Ms Thomas Ellis. He also published a long article defending Worlock's record as well as a letter to the Editor from Otto Herschan, his managing director, saying that the article

was "extremely bad taste" and that Ms Thomas Ellis had failed to conform to the ideal of truth in charity.

The furor presented Fleet Street with four or five ingredients of a good story. As a *Daily Mail* headline enumerated them yesterday, they were: a beautiful woman (Ms Odone); a left-wing archbishop (Worlock); an "unholy row"; the Pope

(who always sells papers) — and a perception among non-Catholics of an authoritarian Church.

Yet it has been on the high-profile Odone, who submitted her resignation before the article appeared, that most attention has focused. According to Paul Johnson, one of the fundamentalist Catholics she invited into the paper, she is "brilliant and beautiful". *The Guardian* describes the "Frostrup-ish huskiness" of her voice.

She has widened the editorial appeal of the *Catholic Herald* but also attracted attention with the sort of forthright comments that many don't expect from Catholic women — "I'd love to have sex 9,000 times a day with 6,000 people". Ms Odone might well have edited Ms Thomas Ellis's article but she says that she would not have apologised even if she hadn't. The paper should have stood by its columnist and not lost its nerve.

Mr Coen remains bewildered by the scale of the row and now believes that enforced subservience to the Catholic hierarchy is a constraint on press freedom. As for Ms Odone, her advice to her successor is defiant: "Stick to your guns. Remember you're not just an organ of the Church but a small Fleet Street paper. Don't keep out of mischief, never apologise."

As *The Sun* discovered after the Hillsborough disaster, editors upset Liverpool, whether its football fans or its Catholic faithful, at their peril. That peril, however, pinpoints the crucial point raised by the journalism of Ms Thomas Ellis. Another of the traditionalist Catholics that Ms Odone encouraged was the author Piers Paul Read. He sees Ms Thomas Ellis as a witty, acerbic writer who had a legitimate viewpoint. "If writers think they are going to upset bishops, particularly when some are so thin-skinned," he says, "Catholic journalism becomes impossible."



Odone: "Don't keep out of mischief. Never apologise"

Robin Wight on why carmakers may be slashing their TV spending

DO you know how many television car advertisements you have seen in the past 12 months? If you are typical (and clearly a *Times* reader is far from typical) you would have seen 702 spots. That is at least six hours of car advertisements a year, taken at a single sitting.

Or to approach it from the car manufacturers themselves, the Renault Clio, the fifth biggest advertiser, actually spent more on advertising last year than mighty British Airways. But did you really "see" all this advertising?

Research confirms what common sense predicts: there is a vast difference between the actual visibility of these media explosions. Last year, for example, a French study on car advertisers showed that the same advertising budgets produced visibility scores ranging from 65 per cent to 15 per cent; a difference of four times the impact on the same budget. Hence the attention-grabbing motoring epics that can cost, if rumour of the forthcoming Volvo commercial is to be believed, as much to produce per second as 30 minutes of normal television output.

Vauxhall's Vectra, too, had the special effects computers working (and charging) overtime. And more recently, the Peugeot 406 launch, following the precedent of the burning sugar cane fields of a previous Peugeot launch, seemed more like a nicely shot pop video than a car commercial. For all these stylish investments I cannot, to coin a phrase, believe it's not clutter.

It is one reason why BMW chose to launch its Z3 convertible by placing it on view in the James Bond *Goldeneye* film. Probably the most effective car launch in 1995, it had nothing to do with an advertising agency (and I write as BMW's advertising agent for 17 years). The fact is, the car launch is looking

Big budget TV ads fail to deliver

rather like the overblown privatisation bonanzas of the 1980s when Sid spent on advertising at five times the level of today's Railtrack. Does car advertising have to be so expensive? BMW's recent 5 Series launch actually spent less than the launch of the Fiat Brava. Compare that with the 26 Opportunities To See (OTS) the Vectra commercial for 96 per cent of the population. A luckless 10 per cent of the population will have seen the advertisement 47 times, making the trench warfare of the First World War seem like a surgical strike.

And where can you put all this television advertising? Car advertisers, not unreasonably, refuse to share breaks with rival brands. There are only eight quality breaks of prime time every night and there are 48 car brands trying to fill them. Little wonder that TV advertising rates are forced by this demand to rise four times faster than the RPI.

Once upon a time, car companies draped young ladies over the bonnets of new models to gain attention, until it was deemed grotesque. Is the advertising warfare not in danger of becoming grotesque, too? Lord Rutherford, who split the atom on a shoestring at Cambridge, had as his battle cry "We haven't any money, so we've got to think". In car advertising, too much

money seems to be deployed with too little thought, for all the polished artistry of the executions.

My favourite advert of 1995 was a Volkswagen commercial that boasted that the production costs of the commercial were less than the servicing cost of the Volkswagen. However modest the production budget, the idea itself was big.

There is a lesson for all of us here. Calling in talented directors, such as Tony Kaye or Gerard de Thame, to fluff up a flat idea is not the answer. As Volkswagen illustrated, it is the size of the idea and not the size of the production or media budget that makes an advert stand out.

How long can Volvo manage to spend £530 on advertising each car, and Audi £405, when BMW is able to get by on a modest £145? I expect a culling of media and production budgets before too long. In the search for bold ideas, my friends at EURO RSCG have come up with an interesting technique. It is called "window shopping". Shortly before they pitched against Butterfield Day Devito Hockney for the BT business account, some of their people were allegedly spotted looking into the ground floor studio of BDDH, perhaps trying to see what bright ideas the rival agency were brewing up. I am sure it was a case of mistaken identity, as EURO RSCG are known for their old-fashioned sense of fair play. In any event, nothing was gained by the process as BDDH held on to this flagship account. However, agencies with ground floor studios, such as M&C Saatchi, AMV and indeed my own, WCRS, may be suffering from this syndrome. I have certainly ordered a blinds-down policy. Window shoppers should stick to Bond Street.

Robin Wight is chairman of WCRS

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NEWS

Lab test casts doubt on IRA cases

At least 12 people may have been wrongly convicted of terrorist offences on the strength of tests at a government laboratory where equipment was contaminated with traces of the explosive RDX, a substance found in Semtex, the Home Office disclosed yesterday.

Michael Howard has ordered an investigation into a series of convictions, which could include some of the most high-profile IRA trials of the past seven years. Pages 1, 2

Chirac takes train to beef lunch

The Field of the Cloth of Gold it was not. But, given the haughty indifference of capital cities to foreign nabobs, President Chirac of France attracted a very respectable crowd when he arrived in London yesterday for a three-day state visit. Page 1

Benefit row

A damaging row has developed in the Shadow Cabinet over whether a Labour government should restore to 12 months the time unemployment benefit is paid. Page 1

Mellor attack

David Mellor, the former Heritage Secretary, accused ministers of lack of leadership in planning the forthcoming millennium celebrations. Page 8

Library fiasco

Squabbles and indecision by civil servants over building the new British Library have tripled costs and caused a catalogue of technical disasters, a public spending watchdog said. Page 9

Kennedy comeback

Senator Edward Kennedy, whose career has been dogged by controversy, has become a metaphor for the Democratic revival and is proving a thorn in Bob Dole's side. Page 12

Delhi decides

India looks likely to have a fragile centre-left government after the largely unknown H.D. Deve Gowda emerged as a compromise candidate to be prime minister. Page 13

Strike threat

Nearly 3,000 car workers are threatening to strike because their company wants them to take all of August off. Page 5

Security pledge

John Major promised government funding for improved school security in the wake of the murder of the London headmaster Philip Lawrence and the Dunblane massacre. Page 6

CJD test case

A woman whose mother died of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human form of "mad cow" disease, has launched legal action against the Government. Page 7

Russian threat

The Russian Defence Minister threatened a new Moscow-Belarusia military alliance if Nato recruits new members from eastern Europe. Page 14

Ogoni disclosures

A hand-written letter smuggled out of Nigeria's infamous Port Harcourt jail describes how Ogoni prisoners are kept in appalling conditions. Page 15

Dijonnais unable to cut the mustard

The traditionalists of French gastronomy are fighting a valiant rearguard action against foreign imports. Dijon mustard is made from Canadian seed, Chinese truffles are cheaper and every bit as delicious as those from Périgord and wines from America and the Antipodes are undermining one of France's prime exports. Page 14



Al Pacino salutes the crowd at the screening of his film Looking for Richard in Cannes yesterday. Festival report, page 9

BUSINESS

Inflation target: The Bank of England opposes further cuts in interest rates and believes inflation targets can be met. Page 27

Economy: Eddie George, governor of the Bank of England, yesterday rejected the argument that Britain would be damaged if it remained outside a single European currency. Page 27

Rail interest: The public offer for the sale of shares in Railtrack closes today with early indications of interest from private and institutional investors. Page 27

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 20.5 points to close at 3759.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 84.4 to 84.7 after a rise from \$1.5146 to \$1.5160 and from DM2.3216 to DM2.3280. Page 30

SPORT

Cricket: Lancashire scored 316 for nine to beat Warwickshire by one wicket and secure a home tie in the quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup. Page 52

Snooker: Terry Griffiths, 48, winner of the world championship at the first attempt in 1979 and one of the game's elite ever since, announced his retirement from competition. Page 52

Football: Middlesbrough signed their third Brazilian, Emerson, for £4 million. He will link up with Juninho and Branco. Page 52

Rugby league: Bobbie Goulding won the latest skirmish in his battle with Shaun Edwards for the England scrum half position when the team was announced for the European championship. Page 48

ARTS

Worth £170 million? Does Sir Richard Rogers's "crystal palace" scheme for the South Bank arts centre in London deserve to win the largest bid for lottery funds so far? Page 37

Bates returns: In the new Simon Gray play at Chichester, Simply Disconnected, Alan Bates returns to the character he played two decades ago in Gray's earlier drama, Otherwise Engaged. Page 36

Museums on show: The television gourmet Loyd Grossman has launched Museums Week, a bid to increase awareness of Britain's 2,000 museums. Page 37

Virtuoso touch: The great American violinist Itzhak Perlman was in relaxed and genial form for his Festival Hall recital. Page 36

FEATURES

Playing God? Is it the critics who are arrogant when they condemn the offer of fertility treatment to an HIV-positive woman? Page 17

Crystal ball: A chance encounter with the clairvoyant Betty Shine caused Erica Wagner to rethink her scepticism. Page 17

Hot stuff: Grace Bradberry finds out what is hot and what's not on the beach this summer. Some designers have been dipping into the past for a while but glossy, modern California-style pieces tend to dominate. Page 16

Learning curve: The Times Good University Guide: Day three of our five-day series offering a map through the jungle of degree entry. Pages 22, 23

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FILMS Geoff Brown reviews Larry Clark's Kids, with Chloe Sevigny (left), plus other films of the week

BOOKS Sarah Bradford on Mrs Keppel and her Daughter: a royal mistress and a wild child

THE PAPERS

It is about time that there was a discussion about the European dimension of the German financial crisis. Time, too, to admit to the public that Germany will probably not be able to meet the conditions for the setting up of the European monetary union — that Bonn will not be as quick, nor as strict in fulfilling these conditions as it demands from its partners. That may be unpleasant for the government, but it is the truth. — Suddeutsche Zeitung

Stanley Reed, director of the British Film Institute; Sir Gaetan Duval, Mauritian politician and lawyer; Albert Meltzer, anarchist. Page 21

Defeat of anti-stalking bill; beautification of Savonaria; birdwatching in town and country. Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,168

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-25 and some letters filled in.

ACROSS 1 Freshly gathered grapes aid daughter when run down (10). 6 Fish in final section (4). 10 Drink provided for knocking back in large amounts can be harmful (7). 11 Deserve to retain article produced from the soil (7). 12 Call again about finish — of the wall (9). 13 A crowd in Shanghai? (5). 14 Dunderhead gains university entrance, showing influence (5). 15 Sees Latin translation as indispensable (9). 17 Woodworker's grouse, confronting log (9). 20 Barren result as English legislator meets heartless Treasury (5). 21 Female always seen in frenzy (5). 23 Outlaw in large numbers in Indian city (9). 25 Expression of concern from serious-looking expert (7).

DOWN 1 Regretted having motorway put in — turned up to object (5). 2 Blow about a pound belonging to us in display of extravagance (9). 3 Fighting monarch — he'd retreat with flag flying (6,3,5). 4 A writer's attribute (7). 5 Succeeded, for example, with soldiers — raised issues (7). 7 Colourful stuff as commander gets hark on soldiers (5). 8 Companion subjected to reproaches when topless is fair game (4,5). 9 Before, think worker extremely lazy, for the most part (1,4). 14 Caught in dreadfully thick fog, in main battle (9). 16 Contrive to secure one's introduction to better environment (9). 18 Forbidden to enter country area, in dramatic sense (7). 19 Degenerated to some extent when climbing, so went back (7). 22 Failing to get on board old express (5). 24 Over half contracted ear disease (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,167: GEOGRAPHY ISLAM, FAHRESE, ANAGRAM, ICAEO, RETICULAR, CURIEA, DESTINATION, IAN, FRENCHMAN, SEAFRENCHMAN, GUSSANDI, TRITE, ARI, M, IDIOTIC ACCOUNT, SIATELO, YEMEN, TREADMILL.

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 64 per cent of the solo competitors in the Bristol Regional Final of The Times Aberlour Crossword Championship and by 63 per cent of the pairs.

WEATHER

Table with weather forecasts for various regions including Greater London, Kent, Dorset, etc.

AA ROADWATCH

Table with roadwatch information for various roads including London, Kent, Dorset, etc.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table with highest and lowest temperatures for various locations.

FORECAST

General: Wales and much of central and southwestern England should have a fine day with some sunshine. Southeast England and East Anglia should start fine and bright. However, rather cloudy weather with a few showers in northern England will spread south during the day. It will be a cooler day than yesterday with mainly light winds.

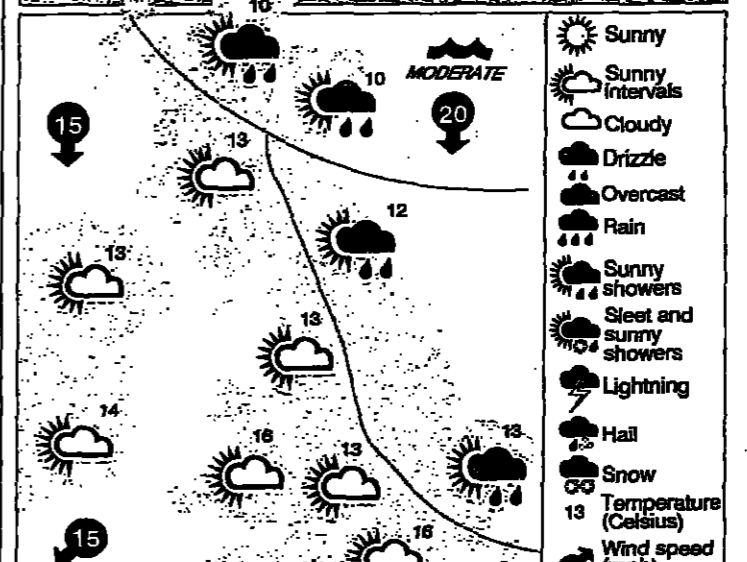
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table with weather data for various locations around Britain yesterday.

ABROAD

Table with weather data for various international locations.

HOOR TODAY



HIGH TIDES

Table with high tide times for various locations.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table with hours of darkness for various locations.

Large advertisement for General Accident insurance, featuring text like 'Public is likely to get more shares in Railtrack' and 'General Accident cheers insurance'.

ARTS 36-38

The South Bank adds up its bid for lottery cash

HOMES 45

Timeshare sellers are trying to beat tough EU laws

SPORT 46-52

Football's unsung heroes honoured by Sir Bobby

TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 50,51

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY MAY 15 1996

Public is likely to get more shares in Railtrack

STRONG demand for Railtrack shares is likely to result in an increased allocation of stock, with more than 30 per cent of the issue going to members of the public.



Governor's view: Eddie George, who believes that the British economy will not be damaged by remaining outside a single European currency

Bank limits Clarke's scope for rate cuts

BY JANET BUSH ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England yesterday voiced its opposition to any further cuts in interest rates but appeared relaxed about rates remaining where they are for the time being.

per cent target in two years' time, given no change in interest rates. In February, it thought the target would, on balance, be hit.

Mr King made it clear that the Bank regarded the last cut in base rates in March as an insurance premium against short-term risks of the economy faltering as manufacturers struggle with the twin problems of huge stock levels and weaker exports to Europe.

Whether, and at what stage, the Bank starts to counsel higher rates will depend on whether the stocks situation and economic developments in Europe continue to act as a brake on the British economy and price pressures. On balance, the Bank appears to

believe that neither factor will be long-lived and serious. Thereafter, it said that the risks tend towards higher inflation, with the Bank expecting the engine of growth to switch from exports to consumer spending.

The Bank referred to the current economic situation in which manufacturing output has been stagnant but consumer spending appears to be picking up with a warning about the dangers of making policy against such a mixed backdrop. The Inflation Report said: "It was precisely at this juncture — with apparent short-term weakness in some sectors masking signs of more buoyant future activity — that

George foresees euro 'tensions'

BY OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday rejected the argument that Britain would be damaged if it remained outside a single European currency, and warned that monetary union would make it difficult to tackle the challenge of high unemployment.

terms than he has done before. The Governor acknowledged fears that, outside a single currency, Britain may be asked to pay a higher-risk premium on its bonds and perhaps lose out on foreign inward investment. But he said: "There is no reason that I can see why we should be significantly damaged in these ways so long as we persist in responsible macro-economic policies directed to stability."

on whether true economic convergence can be achieved — and then sustained in order to make a single currency a success — given high and varying levels of unemployment in Europe. He said that more and more member states believe that high unemployment is partly due to structural features of their economies and are embarking, for example, on programmes of deregulation and cutting back social provision, which will inevitably impact on European economies.

Some flexibility in setting budgets, interest and exchange rates would be helpful in trying to achieve these changes, Mr George went on. Without such flexibility the only way of tackling unemployment would be through cuts in wages, which would be extraordinarily difficult to achieve.

"It is not difficult in those circumstances to envisage tensions arising for the single monetary policy," he said. "It is in this sense one can envisage political disharmony if the economics of Europe go wrong."

General Accident cheers insurers

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

INSURANCE shares rose yesterday after General Accident announced healthy sales of life products and an increase in commercial and personal motor rates. The City took this as a sign that insurance rates had reached the bottom of the cycle and were starting to rise again.



Scott: rates increased

GA shares gained 19p, to 654p, and shares in Royal Insurance, Sun Alliance and Guardian all rose several pence. Prices were supported by merger and takeover speculation and relief that GA's losses were not as bad as had been expected.

counter worldwide bad-weather claims of £70 million. GA put up commercial motor rates by 6 per cent in February and personal rates by 4 per cent in April. Mr Scott said: "It looks as though these rates will stick, but it is too early to say whether we will introduce further increases. We are looking to household and contents insurance for better returns."

UK underwriting fell to an £11 million loss (£41 million profit). Tempus, page 30

Halifax chief heads pay league

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

MIKE BLACKBURN, chief executive of the Halifax Building Society, saw his earnings rise from £378,603 to £404,793 in 1995, according to the society's report and accounts. The sum included a £78,750 bonus.

Jon Foulds, Halifax's part-time chairman, received a 25 per cent rise, from £180,138 to £225,233. His pay has risen by more than 40 per cent over two years, from £160,173 in 1993.

Deal heralds BCCI payout

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

A \$1.8 billion compensation deal from the Abu Dhabi authorities, which owned 77 per cent of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International, has been signed, paving the way for the first payment to creditors by liquidators this summer.

Adil Elias, who sits on the English creditors' committee, said he hoped a dividend of at least 20p in the pound would be made as soon as possible, although the final amount will be subject to court decisions.

The liquidators, of Deloitte & Touche, refused to be drawn on when a payment would be

made or how much would be paid, saying: "The amount of the first dividend will be subject to court decisions which are currently in progress." An Abu Dhabi spokesman said: "We welcome the completion of the \$1.8 billion agreement with the global liquidators. Our principal concern throughout this affair has been that depositors and creditors of BCCI are treated fairly." He added: "The majority shareholders have consistently maintained that agreement with the liquidators is the only outcome capable of providing a significant return for creditors. We are pleased that our joint efforts in opposing attacks, that only served to delay payment, have been ultimately successful."

Worry over fall in labour market

BY PHILIP BASSETT INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

DECLINES in Britain's workforce may be hitting longer-term economic growth, the Treasury believes, and the change may reflect the impact of extensive job-cutting. The Government will today issue the latest unemployment figures, with Whitehall and the City expecting a continuing monthly fall in unemployment of about 10,000 — although building employers yesterday said 30,000 construction jobs may go this year.

Ministers will claim today that declining unemployment indicates the success of government economic policies. Last month's 26,000 fall in seasonally adjusted claimant unemployment took the total of people jobless and claiming benefit, before today's figures, to just under 2.2 million. Private estimates by Treasury officials about the shrinking workforce suggest that Britain's labour market performance may be hitting economic growth prospects. After examining new figures on the size of the workforce, and official projections for it, Treasury officials believe that the fifth successive annual fall in the total labour force may imply a reduction in the longer-term trend growth of the economy.

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including FT-SE 100, US RATE, LONDON MONEY, and Tokyo close Yen 105.05.

Power cut

PowerGen yesterday abandoned hopes of relaunching a bid for Midlands Electricity, the company it was stopped from buying by the Government.

Warning

Shares in Courtaulds Textiles fell 45p to 373p after the Marks & Spencer underwear supplier and owner of the Gossard, Aristoc and Berlei brands gave a profits warning. Page 32

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at BIBENDUM. A BOX at the

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Construction leaders scorn Gummer optimism

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Government and the construction industry clashed yesterday when ministers proclaimed a "lift" for the whole industry but building leaders saw no end to recession and forecast up to 30,000 job losses this year.

The acutely differing views underline both the Government's efforts to improve perceptions of economic performance and the belief of many business leaders, especially in manufacturing, that prospects are now gloomy.

John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, said that new departmental figures for construction orders and starts "will bring a lift to the whole industry". Prospects for improvement and further growth this year were now good, he said. "I expect increasing demand and an improvement in the wider housing market to continue."

But the Construction Industry Employers' Council, an umbrella body covering the industry's main trade associations, said in its latest economic report that the industry saw "no early prospect" of recovery from the recession. The council said it was still forecasting a 1 per cent fall in output and a "significant" loss of jobs during 1996.

Martin Laing, the CIEC chairman, put the potential job losses at 30,000 - sharply up from the 20,000 the industry was forecasting earlier in the year, and suggesting continuing rapid job losses. "Our overall conclusion is that a real recovery from the construction recession is not a realistic prospect until at least the end of this year." While 1997 should see the beginning of that recovery, underlying demand was still weak.

Mr Gummer's optimism was based on the total volume for new construction orders in March being well above the low levels of February, driven by a sharp rise in private housing, which reached its highest level for a year. But DoE officials emphasised the need to look at three months' figures because of possible monthly variations. On a three-month basis, the total volume of contractors' new orders in the first quarter was 9 per cent lower than in the fourth quarter of 1995, and 3 per cent lower than the first quarter of 1995.

New orders in the private housing sector in the first three months of this year were unchanged compared with the previous quarter, but 17 per cent lower than the year before. Public housing orders were 27 per cent higher than the previous quarter, and 3 per cent higher than a year earlier. The construction industry said that the official figures exaggerated future trends in new work activity, with much of the rise attributable to a small number of large orders, a factor accepted by the DoE.



Malcolm Edwards, founder of Coal Investments, will see Hem Heath closed and three other pits auctioned

Germany and France look set to fail EMU test

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission is expected today to forecast the failure of Germany, France and most other EU states to meet the strict tests for launching monetary union, but the figures are unlikely to quell a growing belief that the euro will be born on time.

The slowdown on the Continent has forced the Commission to scale back its economic outlook, a twice-yearly ritual that carries special importance because the test for monetary union will be applied to performance in 1997. The founding members of EMU are due to be chosen on this basis early in 1998 before the euro's planned birthday on January 1, 1999.

The present stagnation means that only three countries - Luxembourg, Ireland and Denmark - are likely to meet the Maastricht criteria

for monetary union this year, Commission sources said. Chancellor Helmut Kohl will be at the Commission on an official visit today when the team of Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the monetary commissioner, puts the finishing touches to its most sensitive forecast: the ability of Germany to meet the target of a budget deficit of 3 per cent of GDP. Despite last-minute adjustments to allow for Kohl's new austerity package, it is expected to predict a figure of about 3.5 per cent.

Germany was lobbying hard to convince the Commission that its deficit-cutting programme, announced last week, should be credited with better results. With its own economic troubles, France, the other state deemed vital to launching EMU, is expected to achieve just under 4 per cent, from about 4.5 per cent this year. Britain, close to meeting the EMU test despite its opt-out from the project, is likely to overshoot the budget target by a small margin.

Gas firms turn up heat

GAS companies yesterday rounded on British Gas, calling for an even more punitive pricing control than the one proposed by Ofgas which could cut £50 from bills (Christine Buckley writes).

The Gas Forum, the group of independent companies with many members that use British Gas's pipeline network, called for tougher penalties. The Gas Forum said TransCo, the pipelines opera-

tion, should be valued at £6 billion - its rate at privatisation. TransCo believes it is worth £17 billion, while Ofgas said it was worth £9-£11 billion.

British Gas shares fell 6p to 195p with City doubts growing that the demerger of TransCo and British Gas Trading, will be able to go ahead if the row between the company and the regulator goes to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

'US links must be nurtured'

HOWARD Davies, Bank of England deputy governor, said last night at a British-American Chamber of Commerce dinner in London, that the UK cannot ignore its "most important non-European relationship" with the US (Patricia Tchan writes).

Real and financial trends are closely aligned, he said, adding: "The US economy began to pick up slightly earlier than ours, turning in 1991, rather than early in 1992. But since then the profile has been remarkably similar, both in terms of real growth, and interest rates." He said this parallel experience contrasted with continental Europe.

Pit closes with loss of 200 jobs

TWO HUNDRED jobs were lost yesterday with the closure of Hem Heath, one of the collieries of the collapsed Coal Investments group (Christine Buckley writes).

Hem Heath, near Stoke-on-Trent, failed to attract a credible buyer in the round of bids being considered by Arthur Andersen, the administrators. Peter Tuch, one of the administrators to the company founded by Malcolm Edwards, former British Coal chief, said: "Despite all the efforts of everyone at Hem Heath the mine continues to be loss-making and will continue to be for some considerable time before there is any prospect of it becoming cash positive."

The lease will be surrendered to the Coal Authority after equipment has been salvaged. The administrators have told Mick Morton, the mine's manager, that any last-minute buyer, thought unlikely, would be considered.

An auction is under way for three more former Coal Investments pits, Silverdale, Annesley Bentinck and Markham Main.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Division as building societies gather

THE annual conference of the Building Societies Association gets under way tonight in Birmingham with the membership split into two factions: the larger societies which would rather be banks, versus the confirmed mutualists. Since last year's conference, four more top-ten societies, Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich, Bristol & West and Northern Rock, have announced their intention of joining the Halifax on the road to the stock market and a new life as banks.

Some other societies, including Nationwide, the second largest in the league, Bradford & Bingley and Britannia, have become increasingly outspoken in their defence of mutualism, where a society is owned by its borrowing and saving members. They have launched borrower discounts to prove that mutualism can be as valuable as flotation handouts.

Airbus in joint talks

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE, the European aircraft consortium, has confirmed it is in talks with other companies, including McDonnell Douglas, to jointly produce a jumbo aircraft able to challenge the monopoly position held by Boeing's 747. Christian Boppé, a spokesman for Airbus member Daimler-Benz Aerospace, yesterday said that talks were taking place on several fronts, but that negotiations were at an early stage. Airbus officials believe the super Airbus, the A-30X, could cost up to \$12 billion to develop.

Forte to quit Savoy

SIR Rocco Forte is to resign from the board of the Savoy Group next week, marking the formal end of a 14-year battle to take control of the company. Sir Rocco and Sir Anthony Tennant, his former deputy chairman at the Forte Group, will step down as directors of Savoy at its board meeting on May 20. Forte Group, which owns 68 per cent of the hotels group, was taken over for £3.8 billion by Granada earlier this year. Granada is working with the management and minority shareholders to find a buyer for its Savoy shares.

Littlewoods jobs cut

THE National Lottery jinx hit Littlewoods employees again yesterday as the pools company revealed it is cutting a further 600 jobs. Littlewoods has now lost more than half its pools workforce since the lottery was launched at the end of 1994. After the job cuts are complete, Littlewoods will employ about 1,350 workers, compared with more than 3,000 before the lottery began. The latest job cuts include 318 redundancies at the company's Hillington complex in Glasgow and 280 in Liverpool and Birkenhead.

Whitbread acquisition

WHITBREAD is acquiring Labatt Brewing UK, the premium lager company whose brands include Rolling Rock, Labatt Blue and Labatt Ice, for an undisclosed sum. The vendor is Interbrew, the privately owned Belgian company that acquired Labatt Brewing UK as part of its US\$2 billion takeover of John Labatt Co, the Canadian brewing group, last year. Whitbread is already Interbrew's licensee for the Belgian brewer's leading Stella Artois brand. The agreement does not include the John Labatt retail pub business.

United water deal near

UNITED UTILITIES' water division is poised to take on half the development and operation of ten water treatment plants in South Australia. North West Water, which last year took over Norwest to become United Utilities, is preferred bidder along with two partners for the £45 million building project. The plants will be built over three years, with the first commissioned next year. Brian Staples, chief executive of United Utilities, said the deal "marks further expansion of our successful international operations."

Exchange link with SEC

THE Stock Exchange has signed an agreement with the US Securities and Exchange Commission under which they will pool regulatory information when shares are traded on both markets. The new agreement replaces a previously informal arrangement under which information was shared. Under the revised arrangements, the SEC and Exchange will notify one another if either takes steps to suspend a company's shares from trading for one day or more, details a company's shares, or takes any other public action against an issuer.

TOURIST RATES

Bank Buys	Bank Sells	Italy Lira	2465.00	2310.00
Australia \$	1.99	Japan Yen	173.30	157.30
Austria Sch	17.35	Malta	0.583	0.548
Belgium Fr	50.77	Netherlands Gld	2.749	2.519
Canada \$	2.175	New Zealand \$	2.35	2.13
Cyprus Cyp£	0.759	Norway Kr	10.58	9.76
Denmark Kr	9.58	Portugal Esc	249.50	231.00
Finland Mkk	7.76	S Africa Rd	7.06	6.28
France Fr	8.26	Spain Ptas	200.50	187.50
Germany Dm	2.48	Sweden Kr	10.87	10.07
Greece Dr	385.00	Switzerland Fr	2.08	1.95
Hong Kong S	12.36	Turkey Lira	120554	112854
Ireland Pt	1.02	USA \$	1.612	1.492
Israel Shk	5.2700			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BERMINGHAM CONSULAR ASSOCIATION
St. Philips House
St. Philips Place
Birmingham B3 3PP
Tel: 0121 550 3300
Fax: 0121 550 3300

From Secretary and Treasurer
On Thursday 18 April 1996 the Birmingham Consular Association held their Annual General Meeting at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham. There were 18 Members present. The Corral for Thailand, Mr G. G. Foster, stood down as President.

The following appointments were proposed and adopted:
President: Mr J. C. Foster, CBE
Vice President: Mr F. J. Harrison
Secretary: Mr D. J. Gwyther, Consul for Cambodia
Treasurer: Mr J. C. Foster, CBE
The Consuls have made changes to their charters. Copies are being sent to the members of the Association in the next few days. The Association is pleased to announce that it is sponsoring a sponsored walk to raise money for the charity of the Birmingham Consular Association. The walk will be held on the 15th of June 1996. Details of the walk will be sent to members in the next few days.

REVERTER OF SITES ACT EXTENSION OF RIGHTS
The Secretary of State for Education and Employment has received an application from the Rev. J. J. Gwyther, Vicar of St. Philip's Church, Birmingham, for an order under the Reverter of Sites Act 1972 extending the rights of the Church to the site of the former Birmingham Consular Association premises, 25 St. Philip's Place, Birmingham. The site is currently occupied by the Birmingham Consular Association premises. The application is supported by the Birmingham Consular Association and the Birmingham Consular Association. The Secretary of State has decided to grant the application. An order under the Act has been made extending the rights of the Church to the site of the former Birmingham Consular Association premises, 25 St. Philip's Place, Birmingham. The order will take effect from the date of its publication in the London Gazette.

LEGAL NOTICES

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS PLC
In Administrative Receivership
Registered Number 2091695
NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT a meeting of the Creditors of the above named company will be held at PO Box 255, 255 Colchester Terrace, 2nd Floor, London W1P 8JF on 22nd May 1996 at 10.00 am for the purpose of receiving and considering a report and the Administrator's statement of affairs and for the purpose of appointing a Receiver of the assets of the company. The meeting will be held in the premises of the Administrator, Messrs. J. J. Gwyther & Co., 25 St. Philip's Place, Birmingham. The meeting will be held in the premises of the Administrator, Messrs. J. J. Gwyther & Co., 25 St. Philip's Place, Birmingham. The meeting will be held in the premises of the Administrator, Messrs. J. J. Gwyther & Co., 25 St. Philip's Place, Birmingham.

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
IN THE COURT OF CHANCERY
No. 209 of 1996
In the matter of
RECEIVERSHIP OF THE ASSETS OF THE ABOVE NAMED COMPANY
I, the undersigned, Receiver of the assets of the above named company, do hereby give notice that a meeting of the Creditors of the above named company will be held at PO Box 255, 255 Colchester Terrace, 2nd Floor, London W1P 8JF on 22nd May 1996 at 10.00 am for the purpose of receiving and considering a report and the Administrator's statement of affairs and for the purpose of appointing a Receiver of the assets of the company. The meeting will be held in the premises of the Administrator, Messrs. J. J. Gwyther & Co., 25 St. Philip's Place, Birmingham.

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THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
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LEGAL NOTICES

RECEIVED LIMITED
Registered Number: 419227
Company Name: RECEIVED LIMITED
Notice is hereby given that the above named company is being wound up as a company limited by guarantee. The liquidator is Mr J. J. Gwyther, 25 St. Philip's Place, Birmingham. The meeting will be held in the premises of the liquidator, Messrs. J. J. Gwyther & Co., 25 St. Philip's Place, Birmingham.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY MAY 15 1996

Investment

BOC shrinks in US with

Buying by Sedgwick 'at an end'

Associated

Allied Domeq

0171 499 8833

Investors await Allied's exit from brewing Railtrack's price could be raised Bank comfort for Clarke and Brown

Time gentlemen, please

BREWING is the glue that sticks Allied Domecq together, and horribly sticky and enduring it is turning out to be. There is little to be done until the appropriate solvent comes to hand.

Tony Hales, chief executive, ended his briefing to the City yesterday on a note of genuine contrition, accepting that shareholders have had to wait too long for a decent payback on their investment. The main interest was over the future of Carlsberg-Tetley, the three-year-old brewing joint venture with the Danes, the 20 per cent profits fall having been presented at the annual meeting in February. A pity, therefore, that the board had so little to say.

Carlsberg-Tetley has been on the auction block for the best part of a year with Bass now clearly identified as buyer, so the lack of solid progress is disturbing. There are two snags. Allied's pub estate is locked into a supply agreement at high prices, while the emergence of Bass as Britain's biggest brewer again with almost two fifths of the market raises competition problems.

The supply deal limits further improvements Allied can make on its retail estate. The company would dearly love to unload more "community pubs" — for which read low-profit boozers — and concentrate on branded outlets, now a third of the estate,

but not until the destination of all that expensive beer is settled.

The worry is that Allied, for reasons beyond its control such as the refusal of the Danes to accept the necessary loss, may have left it too long. The venture is in the books at £300 million, but this price might have to come down to compensate for the ending of the supply deal.

Last year, when a sale was first mooted, it was assumed the competition authorities would allow it through in some form after Scottish Courage was allowed to move ahead as Britain's biggest brewer. But since then rulings on competition have become more capricious, most notably in the electricity industry. The temptation must be overpowering, this close to an election, to kick a deal involving the closure of breweries and the loss of jobs to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Until Carlsberg-Tetley is sorted, it is hard to focus on the merits of the rest of Allied Domecq. Mr Hales declined to say how many drinks brands would have to be sold, or even how many Allied has on its

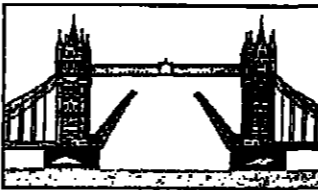
books. The concentration of marketing spend on a core 15 or so would allow huge cost savings, probably in excess of the £55 million indicated yesterday.

The shares sell on an average market rating of 15 times this year's earnings, which suggests some upside once the glue is finally unstuck. Allied has to get it right, or Sir Christopher Hogg, the new chairman, will take appropriate action at boardroom level. An exit from brewing at a low price could always be blamed on previous management, in the cynical way that these things tend to be done. The question is the timing of that exit.

Deferring to the stags

WHEN the man at the ticket agency warns you that seats are in danger of running out, he may not be acting out of concern for your evening's entertainment. Likewise, those sources close to the Railtrack float who talked of overwhelming City interest the day before the books close to the public might have had their own

PENNINGTON



interests to promote. Railtrack has been one of the most political state sell-offs ever, and neither of the main parties has come out of the affair covered in much glory. Labour has fudged and muddled, so driving the price down and depriving the Exchequer of income, but said little of worth, capping it all with wildly misleading leaks of a couple of brokers' surveys.

These, it has been suggested by the Opposition, advise that the float be shunned. Quite the opposite, which is why the City has bought in so heavily. Lloyds and NatWest merely warned long-term holders of the possible damage from Labour policy. Ministers have responded by pricing the float too low, with

some £69 million of unwarranted extra dividends thrown in as a panic measure. The result will probably be a last-minute rush of forms from share shops this morning and 40 per cent or more of the shares going to the public.

The City thus deprived, and upwards pressure put on the shares once they start trading, the issue can be judged a success as these things go. But here is a suggestion. If there is such an appetite for Railtrack shares, why not break with precedent and confound the critics by pricing the shares well above the indicative 350p to 390p range? The reason, alas, is that the last thing ministers want is a few hundred thousand small investors deprived of the staggering profits they regard as their right.

A clear run to the polls

WE ARE now so near to an election that the Bank of England's long-range forecast of inflation is equally relevant to Gordon Brown, Chancellor in

waiting perhaps, as to Kenneth Clarke. The latter gets the best part of the deal initially, inflation expected to drift down below 2.5 per cent over the next year and stay there. He will therefore enjoy a benign run of inflation figures right up until any last-gasp election. Thereafter, the Bank expects inflation to start rising gently again to perhaps above 2.5 per cent in the first quarter of 1998, on the assumption that interest rates remain at their current level.

If Mr Clarke manages to hang on without a rate rise until the election, which seems quite possible, Mr Brown would surely be left with that task. But whichever man holds the keys to Number 11, raising rates in the first few months of a new term is never too painful. There is plenty of time for forgiveness later.

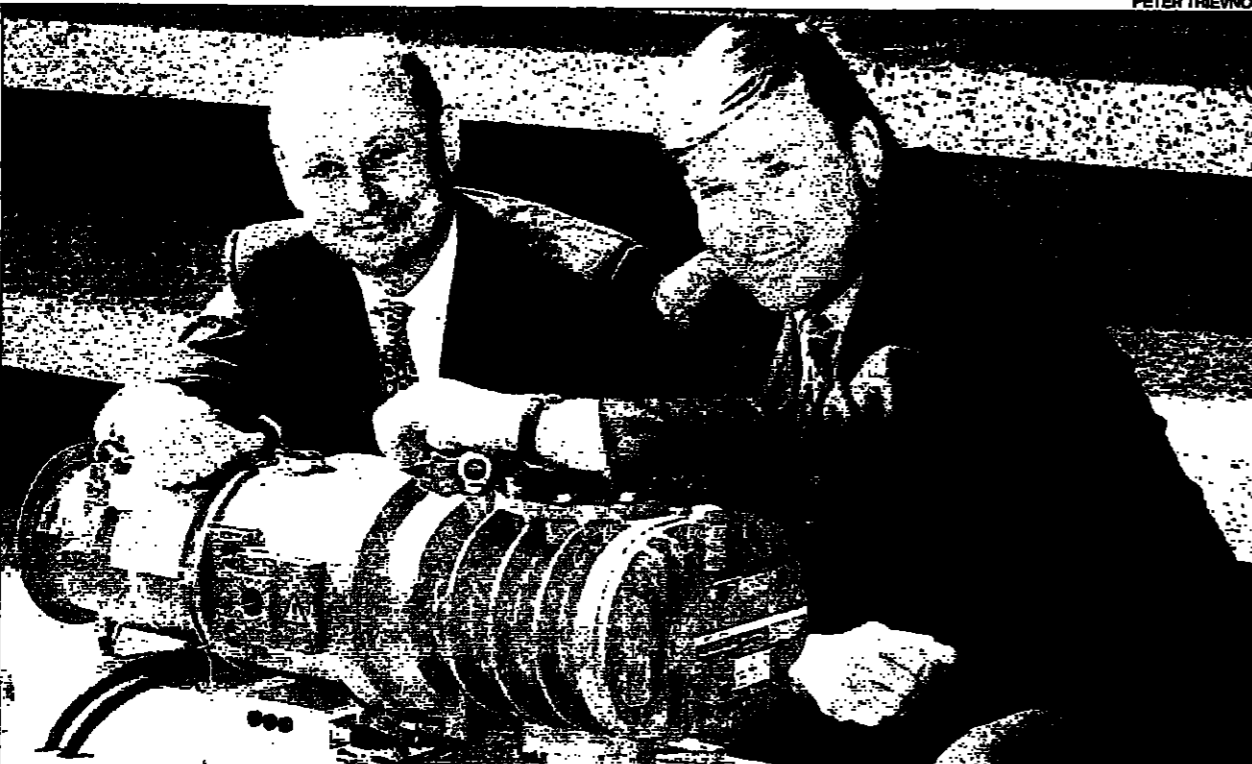
With the economist's peculiar ability to detect a dark cloud within every silver lining, the Bank's latest quarterly report finds a short-term risk from weak export markets and excessive stocks. But subsequent growth in investment and consumer spending might put up-

ward pressure on inflation later. This is not to suggest a dramatic surge in inflation into the start of the next electoral term. In inimitable Bank-speak, the report says it is "marginally more likely than not" that inflation will be above target. Any incoming Chancellor can be assured that any rate rise he has to make will be modest. It may even establish an immediate reputation for financial probity.

Jobs for the boys

SHOWING an admirable willingness to bite the hand that feeds him, Denis MacShane is today enjoying the centenary celebrations of the Engineering Employers' Federation at the House of Commons just hours after calling for the EEF's disappearance. The Labour MP for Rotherham has put down a ten-minute rule Bill for a radical cull of employers' bodies.

He accuses them, quite rightly, of "permanent column-inch warfare". The CBI says this, the Institute of Directors says the opposite, and so on. The EEF a few years ago to produce one voice for manufacturing, but nothing came of it. But why does one suspect that there are too many vested interests, not to say lucrative jobs, in the system as it now stands?



Danny Rosenkranz, left, BOC chief executive, and Tony Isaac, finance director, at the firm's plant in Surrey

BOC shrugs off problems in US with 12% advance

BOC GROUP, the industrial gases and healthcare group, has shrugged off problems in the US healthcare market to report a 12 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £217.4 million.

Danny Rosenkranz, BOC chief executive, said consolidation among US hospitals had hit orders for the anaesthetic machines made by Ohmeda, the group's healthcare arm. The lost US sales were almost entirely to blame for a 9 per cent fall in healthcare profits to £28.4 million.

BOC said that it broadly

maintained its share of the anaesthetic gas market. Ohmeda's best-seller, Forane, now faces strong competition from generic rivals.

Mr Rosenkranz ruled out any sale of the healthcare business: "It is not often appreciated how strong we are around the operating room and, increasingly, around the intensive care unit."

The exception is Delta Biotechnology, a Nottingham firm working on a blood replacement compound that costs BOC about £9 million a year. Mr Rosenkranz said: "The technology has reached a level where it has value. We

are looking to find a way of releasing that value..."

BOC Gases increased its contribution by 10 per cent to £197.8 million, with good results from the North Pacific, Europe, the Americas and South Africa. In the UK, BOC enjoyed strong demand and reduced overheads but Mr Rosenkranz acknowledged "slight concern" about prospects for liquid oxygen and liquid nitrogen in the US.

Gas sales rose to £1.38 billion, out of a group total of £1.98 billion for the six months to March 1996. Earnings per share for the half increased by 11 per cent to 27.85p.

The contribution from the vacuum and distribution division jumped by 39 per cent to £43.6 million, led by Edwards, the vacuum pump business, whose products are used in the manufacture of semiconductor.

Edwards has just won its largest order from a Korean semiconductor manufacturer. Jeremy Chantry, chemicals analyst at Kleinwort Benson, lifted his full-year profit forecast for BOC from £438 million to £450 million. BOC is paying a second interim dividend of 13.5p a share.

Tempus, page 30

Cantab to raise £25m for R&D

CANTAB Pharmaceuticals, the biotechnology company, has announced plans to raise a further £25 million.

It will use the money to continue the development of its proposed treatments for herpes and genital warts, and of its innovative DISC virus technology.

Cantab is not offering its shareholders pre-emption rights over the new shares, largely because of the problems caused by its listing on the Nasdaq market in the US. The venture capitalists that still own about 30 per cent of Cantab are not expected to buy new shares in the issue, which has yet to be priced.

Cantab's first-quarter results showed an increased pre-tax loss of £1.8 million (£1.6 million).

Hongkong Telecom profits rise by 14.3%

HONGKONG TELECOM, 57 per cent owned by Cable and Wireless, has survived the loss of its domestic monopoly, making a net profit of HK\$9.94 billion (£864 million) in the year to March 31, up 14.3 per cent from HK\$8.70 billion and in line with analysts' forecasts.

Brian Smith, chairman of Cable and Wireless and HongKong Telecom, said that C&W had no immediate plans to sell a stake in HongKong Telecom. He added that China had viewed C&W's recent merger talks with BT as a commercial transaction.

Mr Smith reaffirmed that no further discussions would be held with BT. Speculation is rife in Hong Kong that Chinese or Chinese-backed interests are seeking a stake in HongKong Telecom before the colony reverts to China in July next year. Turnover for the

PowerGen sells stake in Midlands

POWERGEN yesterday abandoned hope of relaunching a bid for Midlands Electricity, the company it was vetoed from buying by the Government when it sold its 21 per cent stake. This helps to clear the way for the third takeover of a regional company by US buyers.

PowerGen reacted strongly when Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said its bid — with that of National Power for Southern Electric — could not proceed. The company said it was looking at a judicial challenge to the block. It is no longer expected to follow this path.

PowerGen, which today announces annual results, sold its holding in Midlands to the new bidders for the company — the US utilities General Public Utilities and Cnergy, for £69 million profit.

Buying by Sedgwick 'at an end'

ANNOUNCING better-than-expected pre-tax profits of £45.3 million (£42.7 million) for the three months to March 31, Stuart Tarrant, finance director of Sedgwick, the insurance broker, said it was not planning further purchases after buying a German insurance broker (Marianne Curphey writes).

Income from brokerage and fees rose 1 per cent to £243.2 million. Expenses, at £209 million, were unchanged. Sedgwick predicted a recovery in financial services businesses later this year. Earnings per share were 5.5p (4.9p).

Hodder Headline issues surprise profit warning

SHARES of Hodder Headline fell by nearly 14 per cent yesterday after the publishing group issued a surprise profit warning.

The news came less than a month after the group, which publishes best-selling authors such as Rosamunde Pilcher and John Le Carré, revealed a 30.5 per cent slide in pre-tax profits to £5.7 million in the year to December 31.

Tim Hely Hutchinson, chief executive, warned shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting that first-half profits are "expected to be less than half that reported for the comparative period in 1995".



Hely Hutchinson: downbeat

The shares fell 36p to 224p on the news.

The decline in profits is in spite of an expected 15 per cent rise in first-half sales, which

were boosted by the successful launches of several titles, including Ms Pilcher's *Coming Home*. The fall in profits reflects pressure on margins.

Mr Hely Hutchinson added that the split of profits between the two halves is likely to shift further towards the second half.

He said: "Looking ahead, we believe the relative profitability of the first and second halves will prove to have been abnormal in 1994 and 1995 and we expect a stronger weighting towards the second half, not only in 1996 but also, all else being equal, in future years."

Tempus, page 29

Allied Domecq to tighten its belt

ALLIED DOMEQ, the troubled drinks company, yesterday promised to focus on branding and cost-saving measures as the company unveiled a 20 per cent fall in half-year profits to £321 million.

But there was no further indication of the fate of Carlsberg-Tetley, the brewing arm joint-owned with Carlsberg, despite speculation that a sale is imminent. Tony Hale, chief executive, said Allied would concentrate on seeing through the restructuring programme, culminating with the closure

of the Warrington brewery in October. Profits at Carlsberg-Tetley rose 14 per cent to £25 million in the half-year, but overall volumes fell 3 per cent.

Profits in the spirits and wine division fell 21 per cent to £238 million, while those in the Mexican division doubled in Peso terms, although the December devaluation of the Mexican currency caused sterling profits to fall by £6 million to £26 million.

Allied said it aims to target its spirits portfolio at 15 key brands, including Beefeater gin, Ballantine's whisky and

Kahlua, with the marketing spend increasing 5 per cent to £221 million. Profits in the retailing division were 2 per cent ahead at £108 million. The total number of pubs fell by 3 per cent as Allied moved to comply with QFT requirements.

The company said it had saved £12 million through cost cutting in the half-year and expects savings made over the past four years to exceed £50 million next year. An unchanged interim dividend of 9.44p is payable on July 26.

Pennington, this page

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Otherwise engaged

PLENTY of time for happy memories to come flooding back at yesterday's memorial service for David Bando...

On hold

FIDELITY BROKERAGE has been forced to apologise to customers by way of letter...

Republican star

PETER KIRWAN, editor of Business Age, who is currently fighting a ruling over his magazine's £2.2 billion estimate of the Queen's worth...



"Some of us have reading difficulties"

Fraternity

THE British Ambassador to Paris will welcome Jacques Chirac to a City lunch at the Guildhall today...

Feeling flat

MICHAEL LONGSHAW, managing director of London's Capital Club, is particularly upset over Will Carling's divorce...

Royal revelation

THE paint is still drying on the walls of the Baltic Exchange in preparation for the Duke of Edinburgh's visit today...

MORAG PRESTON

Contrasting trends among jobless threaten growth

Philip Bassett on the vanishing workforce and the unemployed young and old



The predicted rise in the number of men in the workforce over the next ten years is less than the fall in the past five

Soon after the Government announces today what ministers hope will be another fall in unemployment...

Labour's proposals for the under-25s, under the title of Target 2000, will include the scrapping of the current Youth Training scheme...

Both moves reflect a deeper concern among senior economic policymakers about the impact on Britain's economic and competitive performance of its shrinking workforce...

The Government last week published, unnoticed, new figures showing that Britain's workforce fell again in 1995...

Out of a workforce of 27.7 million, such a drop - even the cumulative figure amounts to only 1.8 per cent of the current total - looks like small change...

Treasury officials are privately making clear their concern about the trend, to the extent of giving warnings that it may well lead to a reduction in Britain's long-term economic growth rate...

The Chancellor managed in the last Budget's accompanying Red Book to lift the official estimate of the economy's long-term sustainable growth rate from 2.25 to 2.5 per cent...

The Treasury's private concerns about the economic impact of a falling workforce coincides with similar developments elsewhere. In the US, in particular, key gurus of job-cutting...

corporate citizenship which have been strongly promoted in America by Robert Reich, his Labor Secretary.

In the UK, from its all-time high of 28.2 million in the spring of 1990, before the recession hit, Britain's workforce has been falling steadily.

Over the period 1990-95, the number of men in the labour force fell by 498,000 - down from just over 16 million to 15.6 million, or a drop of 3.1 per cent.

At the same time, the female labour force grew, by a marginal 6,000, to 12.2 million.

Such figures with obvious implications offer a startling challenge

But economic changes taking place now are already having an impact. Take unemployment. Business leaders launching their Employers for Age campaign...

While accepting the importance of not dispensing with experience, Mr Blair and a galaxy of Labour figures will today in the august surroundings of the Institution of Civil Engineers...

number of men in the workforce is set to increase over the next decade by 429,000, or 2.75 per cent...

Since 1971, the number of women in the labour market has risen by almost a third, from 9.4 million to 12.1 million in 1995.

Within all this, age is an important factor, as Mr Blair will underline today and Mr Davies emphasised on Monday...

Drawing on a complex blend of birth rates, fertility rates (which affect economic activity rates for women under 45), immigration levels, and overall activity rates...

Over the five years from 1995 to the end of the century, the British labour force is projected to increase by 807,000, or almost 3 per cent.

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ANTHONY HARRIS

Central banks: ever more glory, ever less power

Alan Greenspan is still being lionized on the days when he is not being canonized. The truth of the matter, perhaps, is that he has become marginalized.

American spelling or not, nobody puts it better than Jim Grant - he of the Interest Rate Observer. He is reporting on American conditions of placid prosperity: steady growth, no change in interest rates, none in contemplation.

Yet as he points out, the Federal Reserve is impersonating a swan - serene above the surface, paddling away like mad underneath. For the past few months the Federal Reserve has been keeping liquidity progressively tighter...

That is not much more than half the growth rate achieved in the last trough, at the end of 1989. "Esperanto currency" as a Bundesbank skeptic has christened the new Euro currency...

Central banks are looking like something from the Walrus and the Carpenter

And if the Federal Reserve actually wanted to impose a squeeze...

The fact is that in globalised financial markets, the central banks around the world are looking more and more like something from the Walrus and the Carpenter...

franc swept into ever more absurd over-valuation, who can possibly blame him?

The only answer that has yet been tested is to carry the normal means of intervention in the markets to unheard-of extremes.

The Bank of Japan started it, addressing the banking crisis and the yen overshoot with virtually free credit and unprecedented foreign exchange intervention.

The Federal Reserve, on the other end of the sea-saw, is now constrained to mount its deliberately ineffective squeeze. The Bundesbank has a different agenda: to try to revive the whole European economy on its way to EMU.

This, ironically, is simply because this is such a visible step on the way to European Monetary Union.

Bond investors do not like the idea of investing marks and being repaid in an "Esperanto currency" as a Bundesbank skeptic has christened the new Euro currency.

And if the central banks are now constrained to thrash about, deploying potentially high-risk policies to restore their lost potency...

The hedge funds? Don't be ridiculous. The correct answer must be that in a free global financial market, as in any true market, nobody is in charge.

Unchecked markets have the greatest potential for growth, it is true, but history shows that they also have the greatest potential for inflationary explosions, and for crashes.

So what next? Re-regulation? Good guess.

Victoria McKee looks at a campaign to benefit frequent flyers



Farrol Kahn, the founder and first director of the Aviation Health Institute: "The airline industry is the only one with no health executive"

Blast of fresh air for aviation health

Sir Peter Walters, chairman of SmithKline Beecham, used to feel "like a caged lion" on long-haul flights. Then he discovered that if he broke them up with a golfing stopover or to go swimming he'd arrive fresher and ready to do business.

SmithKline Beecham is one of the corporate sponsors behind a new Aviation Health Institute to be launched today by that frequent flyer Sir David Frost...

Paul Nicholson, a senior vice-president with the company, who spends half his time in the US and half in Britain, keeps identikit wardrobes in both countries to try to feel less disoriented. He, too, understands the strains that long-distance flights place on the business traveller...

Burmah Oil I was always fascinated to know why my body was acting strangely, and wanted to find out what one is up against in the air. These days there are bankers who think nothing of going to Hong Kong for dinner but no one has really studied the effects of this type of travel.

They may not be aware that the environment promoted as being so tranquil and cosseting can aggravate ailments as diverse as asthma and angina, lead to digestive upsets, mental disorientation, thrombosis and temporary hearing problems. Moreover, notes Andrew Valance-Owen, Bupa's medical director and a member of the institute's executive council...

lack of oxygen, which doesn't affect the healthy but can exacerbate cardiovascular conditions and blood disorders. Gas in body cavities also expands and can affect sinuses, ears, toothache and recent abdominal surgery.

The effects may be minimised by awareness and prevention - from drinking carrot juice several days before a flight to ward off hypoxia, to choosing a seat that is not at the back or near the engines, taking exercise and eating and drinking sensibly in flight.

What is interesting about this institute, if it gets off the ground, is that it has been set up by consumers rather than by the airlines or aircraft manufacturers, or others with vested interests.

and a launch pad for future books on the subject - he already has two to his credit. "The airline industry is the only one with no health executive, merely safety executives," he says. "Passengers have an obligation to look after their own health, so airlines can be very much like ostriches, sticking their heads in the sand."

Many of the changes Kahn would like to see before 2000, when there will be an estimated 1.5 billion passengers a year globally, are small and could be made immediately, he contends. "One of the simplest things would be for planes to provide 100 per cent fresh air - as they used to. The world's healthiest airline is Concorde, which offers 100 per cent fresh air recycled every three and a half minutes. But most planes only provide 50 per cent fresh air since they can save £50,000 or so in a transatlantic trip by recycling stale air, since it takes extra fuel to provide fresh air. We must give the human factor priority in air travel, at last, instead of engineering and economics."

Kahn, of course, gets a salary out of it ("a modest one", he insists), a free office

BASF Aktiengesellschaft 67056 Ludwigshafen. Allianz Beteiligungsgesellschaft mbH, Munich/Germany has notified us in accordance with § 41 paragraph 2 of the Wertpapierhandelsgesetz (Law on Securities Trading) that its share of the voting stock of our company exceeds 10% and altogether amounts to 10.6% (as of January 1, 1995).

BANCO DO BRASIL. IMPORTANT NOTICE RE CHANGE OF OPENING HOURS. Banco do Brasil S.A. wishes to inform clients and correspondent banks in the United Kingdom that, with effect from 3rd June 1996, the counters of the London branch will be open to the public on London business days between the hours of 12pm and 4pm daily.

Ionica aims to undercut BT phone bills by 20%

By OUR CITY STAFF

A NEW national telephone system was launched yesterday with a promise to cut bills by up to 20 per cent in a bid to sign one million customers by the end of the century. Ionica plans to create several thousand new jobs by the year 2000 if it successfully takes on BT and wins a 5 per cent share of the market. The company has so far spent about £150 million to

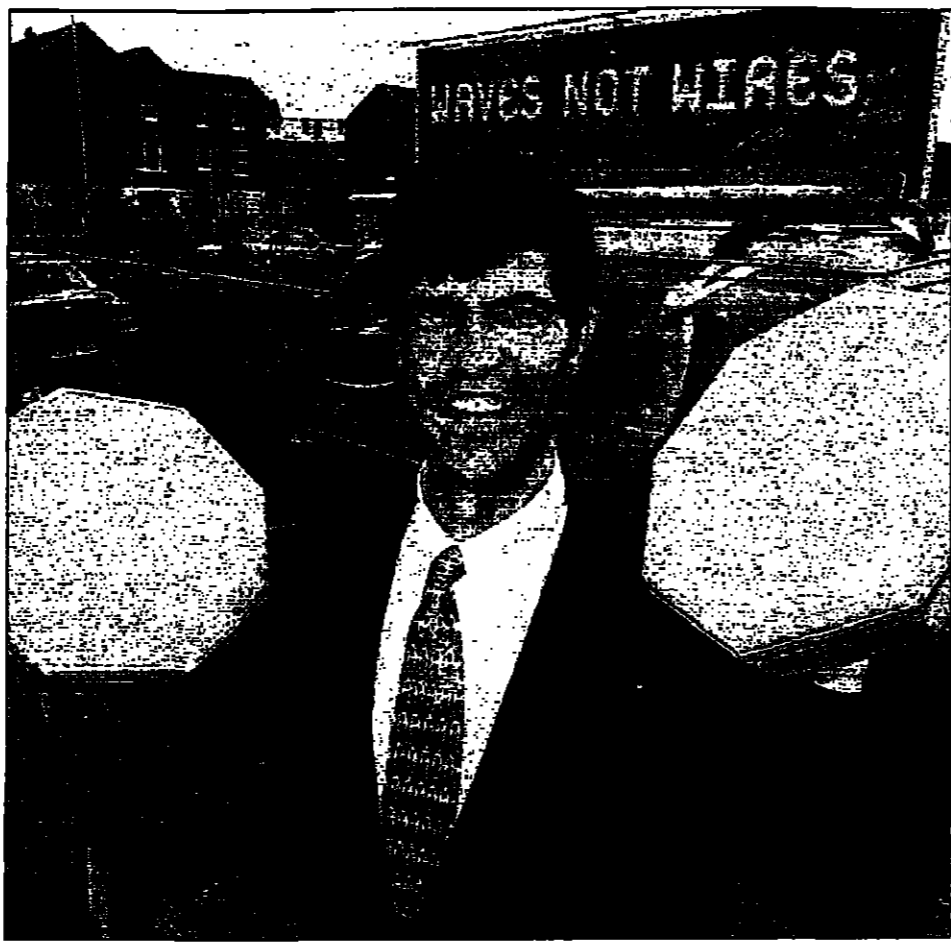
prepare itself for the launch to nearly two million homes in the East of England. Nigel Playford, Ionica's chief executive, estimated that an extra £200 million would give it the basic infrastructure needed to offer the service nationally.

Its system, based on radio waves rather than cables, will initially be available in East Anglia and will spread over the next two years to cover the whole of the country.

The company, based in Cambridge, said residential and small business telephone users will see their bills cut by between 15 per cent and 20 per cent and will have extra features if they switch from BT. UK and international calls will be about 15 per cent cheaper, line rental will be 20 per cent below the BT level and the cost of installing a second telephone will be 70 per cent cheaper.

Mr Playford acknowledged that the tariffs on offer were not "too dissimilar" to those of some cable television companies, who between them are taking 50,000 customers from BT each month. Mr Playford argued that the Ionica offer was much easier for people to understand than that of the cable companies, which varied from region to region and was often linked to television subscriptions.

One of the new features is that every line can have three separate telephone numbers, each with its own distinctive ringing tone. "It means that if you are watching football on television and the phone rings, you can stay where you are because the ringing tone will tell you if the call is for the kids," said Mr Playford.



Making waves: Nigel Playford, chief executive, at Ionica's telephone network launch

EIT asset value has 19.7% rise

EDINBURGH Investment Trust, managed by Edinburgh Fund Managers, enjoyed a 19.7 per cent rise in net asset value per share to 382.9p in the year to March 31 (Patricia Tehan writes). However, the trust failed to outperform the FT-SE Actuaries All-Share index which was 19.8 per cent higher in the same period.

The trust has increased its year's dividend 7 per cent to 10p with a 6.75p final due on July 5.

The use of borrowings offset the poor performance of international equities and fixed-income stocks. The UK equity portfolio failed to match the FT-SE Actuaries All-Share index. The fixed-income securities portfolio was cut by £40 million and the proceeds used to repay short-term borrowings.

Confidence at Westbury despite slip

By SIMON KENNEDY

WESTBURY, the house-builder, suffered a 9.6 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £11.5 million for the year to February 29, including a £1.7 million exceptional reorganisation charge. Geoffrey Maddrell, chairman, said he is confident of making "further significant progress" in the year ahead after an encouraging start, which saw underlying sales reservations rise 10 per cent.

Earnings per share rose 4 per cent to 12.7p, while the final dividend, due July 15, is up 5.2 per cent to 4.05p for a total of 6.05p. The company also announced plans to unveil a new corporate identity later this month to promote a "warmer and friendlier image".

Newsprint costs hit The Telegraph

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

HEAVY rises in the cost of newsprint continued to hit profits at The Telegraph, the newspaper publisher, in the three months to March 31.

Pre-tax profits fell by almost a quarter to £6.6 million from £8.7 million as the group struggled to absorb a 47 per cent increase in newsprint prices.

The company's profitability also suffered from a decline of 29 per cent to £4.2 million in the contribution from the company's stake in John Fairfax, the Australian media group. Hollinger, the parent company of The Telegraph, is engaged in a power struggle over Fairfax with Kerry Packer, the Australian media tycoon.

But an easing in the news-

paper price war in Britain helped the group to recover lost revenue and overall turnover rose 19 per cent to £73 million.

There was also an improvement in advertising, with total revenues rising by 5.1 per cent, although revenue from display advertising fell by 6.2 per cent.

The Telegraph added that newsprint prices had since stabilised and that display advertising revenues had also shown signs of improvement in the second quarter.

The company described its circulation performance since the beginning of the year as "promising".

Hollinger, which is the majority owner of the Telegraph, last month made a £760 million offer for the remaining 36 per cent of the company.

The deal, which values each Telegraph share at 560p plus a special dividend of 10p, still needs the approval of the company's shareholders.

On the stock market, shares in the company closed unchanged last night at 557p.

Penalties rising for bias at work

By PHILIP BASSETT INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

EMPLOYERS are now paying far more for unlawful discrimination over race and sex, a report says today.

The increase in compensation awards, identified in a study by an independent labour market analyst, is clear evidence of the effect of the removal, more than two years ago, of the statutory upper limit on such compensation after a decision by the European Court of Justice.

Industrial Relations Services (IRS) compares the level of compensation awards made by industrial tribunals in the year prior to the abolition of the upper limit in November 1993, with the level of awards in the two-year period after its abolition.

In the case of the first, the average compensation award was £2,940; in the case of the latter awards rose 31 per cent, to £3,777. If awards made in Ministry of Defence cases brought by servicemen discharged because of pregnancy are included, average compensation rose more than three-fold, to £12,172. The average award in these cases is now down from £33,346 to £16,009.

In cases of proven racial discrimination, pre-limit awards were, on average, £2,824. After abolition, the average rose 63 per cent to £4,596. More than 10 per cent of awards are now over the old limit, ranging from £11,000 to almost £30,000.

IRS's Equal Opportunities Review says that over the two-year period, employers were ordered to pay out more than £5 million to victims of unlawful discrimination.

Gary Bowker, the study's author at IRS, says that employers are now having to pay more for their unlawful actions: "There is now a clear financial incentive for employers to take equal treatment seriously and import the principles of equality law into their personnel decisions."

Trade unions are winning the workplace battle for recognition, the TUC says today in a study. It claims that deals involving recognition by employers for collective bargaining are now up by 50 per cent compared with six months ago.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Kwelm creditors set for payout of \$220m

COOPERS & LYBRAND, administrator for five insolvent British insurance companies known collectively as Kwelm, said the group's main US creditors would receive a third instalment of \$220 million this summer. This will bring the total sum paid to more than \$920 million since the five were declared insolvent in 1992. Estimates of the group's ultimate liabilities have been cut by almost \$1 billion to \$9.7 billion. The Kwelm companies comprised Kingscroft Insurance, Lime Street Walbrook Insurance, El Paso Insurance, Lime Street Insurance, and Mutual Reinsurance. Kwelm had 100,000 policyholders. About 30 per cent of the policies, many insuring against pollution and asbestosis liabilities, have matured.

SBC merger go-ahead

THE Federal Reserve Board has given Swiss Bank Corporation the go-ahead to merge its US investment banking businesses from next month. The SG Warburg banking business from next month. The SG Warburg banking business and SBC Capital Markets operations, which have been operating separately since the takeover of Warburg by SBC last summer, will become SBC Warburg Inc. The merged business will employ 1,000 people in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Boston.

UPF jumps 22%

UPF, the vehicle chassis frame manufacturer, enjoyed a 22 per cent increase in pre-tax profits in the six months to February 29 to £3.1 million from £2.6 million in 1995. Earnings per share rose to 7.8p (6.4p) and the interim dividend rises to 1.6p from 1.5p, due June 20. The company is continuing to look for growth in Europe after its purchase of Bellino last October. It has already increased its business with Mercedes Benz.

WT Foods to raise £3m

WT FOODS, the speciality food company, is raising £3 million via a placing and open offer of new shares to finance new plant and equipment, increase marketing activity and strengthen the balance sheet for future expansion. The company is offering four new shares for every 15 held at 27p each. Existing shares rose 1p to 30p yesterday. The company forecast profits of not less than £500,000 (£1.6 million) for the year to March 31. The final dividend is 0.85p (1.75p) a share.

United News on target

UNITED NEWS & MEDIA, created by the merger of the publisher of the Daily Express, Sunday Express and the Daily Star with MAI, the television and financial services group, said profits and trading this financial year are "in line with expectations". Lord Stevens, chairman, said: "Although many of the improvements in operating performance will only be fully reflected next year, we expect a significant proportion of savings in the current year."

Diploma holds dividend

DIPLOMA, the electronics and building products company, is maintaining the interim dividend at 4.5p a share after suffering a downturn in profits to £11 million before tax in the half year to March 31, from £13.5 million in the first half of the previous year. Earnings fell to 12.7p a share from 15.5p. The company said the decline in profits reflected margin pressures in the electronics sector and low demand for building products. Turnover was £114 million (£107 million).



General Accident

3-MONTHS RESULTS		
	3 Months to 31.3.96 Estimated £m	3 Months to 31.3.95 Estimated £m
General Premiums	1,112	1,029
Underwriting Result	(96)	(14)
Net Investment Income	136	115
Life Profits	20	16
Operating Profit before Taxation	55	112
Operating Earnings per Ordinary Share	6.8p	16.6p

- Operating pre-tax profit of £55m follows severe weather property losses of £70m.
- Winter weather property claims cost £34m in the UK.
- Results in the United States and Canada adversely affected by severe weather but underlying trends remain encouraging.
- Net investment earnings up 13% in original currencies.
- Good new business production in UK life and pensions, assisted by acquisition of Provident Mutual.
- Current solvency margin 75%.
- Net assets per ordinary share 651p.

General Accident plc

General Accident plc, World Headquarters: Pitheavlis, Perth, Scotland PE2 0NH
These results are also available on the Internet: <http://www.ga.co.uk>

For your company golf day...
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The Times Mees Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge is open to any company, charity, club, partnership, association or club (not a profit-making company) in the British Isles which holds a business or company golf day. A minimum of 12 or more players must take part.

How to participate

1. The company must be a limited liability company or partnership registered in the UK or Ireland.
2. The company must have a minimum of 12 employees.
3. The company must have a minimum of £100,000 turnover in the year to 31.3.96.
4. The company must have a minimum of £100,000 net assets.
5. The company must have a minimum of £100,000 net assets.
6. The company must have a minimum of £100,000 net assets.

Company Registration

Company name: _____
Company address: _____
Post Code: _____
Telephone No: _____
Facsimile: _____
E-mail: _____
Name of company representative (to whom all correspondence will be sent): _____
Will be holding a golf day at: _____ Golf Club
Address: _____
Country: _____
On _____ (date) and will be attended by approximately _____ golfers.
If the name and date of your golf day have yet to be decided please return this form to: _____

Benefits of Entry

1. "Golf day" featured in The Times, Sunday Express, Daily Express and Daily Star.
2. A list of new potential clients for your company.
3. Copies of The Times, Sunday Express, Daily Express and Daily Star.
4. A golf day management contract and support for your golf day.
5. Complimentary entry to the Mees Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge.
6. A chance for your company to be featured in the Mees Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge.
7. The opportunity to win the Mees Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge.
8. A chance for your company to be featured in the Mees Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge.
9. The opportunity to win the Mees Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge.
10. A chance for your company to be featured in the Mees Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge.

Rules and Regulations

The competition is open to all companies registered in the UK or Ireland. A list of all rules and regulations will be sent to you on request. The competition is open to all companies registered in the UK or Ireland. A list of all rules and regulations will be sent to you on request.

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New York drives London higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including Alcoholic Beverages, Banks, Breweries, Pubs & Rest, Diversified Industrials, Engineering, Vehicles, Food Manufacturers, Healthcare, Household Goods, Insurance, Investment Trusts, and Chemicals.

Main table of stock prices for various sectors including Mining, Leisure & Hotels, Oil & Gas, Media, Other Financial, British Funds, Short-Term, Long-Term, and Medium-Term investments.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including Pharmaceuticals, Support Services, Printing & Paper, Property, Telecommunications, Textiles & Apparel, Transport, Retailers, Food, Retailers, General, and Water.

Advertisement for HSBC Group: "I can settle my bills over the phone" for 24 hour telephone banking. Contact number: 0800 24 24 24. Member HSBC Group.

Source: Financial Times. Figures in pence unless otherwise stated. Figures in italics are estimates. No financial data is shown for companies that are not listed on the FTSE 100 index.

UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, with columns for bid, offer, and other financial metrics.

NotWest Interest rates advertisement. Text: 'NotWest Interest rates announces the following interest rates, effective from 13 May 1996: Fixed Rate TESSA 7.250% 7.45% N/A...'

Vertical advertisements on the right margin, including 'EURO PERSONNEL', 'FAC MA REC BIEM', and 'SERVICE VICA'.

Vertical text on the left margin: 'JEW in w with p to 2 one o mica thour 20C on t shar e nt at E ve 19 EDITORIAL Editors are rise in share to A Tehau the form All-5 I same Th its y cost final of i and The fuller Actu the portu mudi used boor'

Stephen Hoare reports on the plans behind the new generation of prisons being built by private companies

Women prison officers could be the key to the new generation of privately financed jails planned in response to a projected rise in the prison population.

Jails get the gentle touch

"Women will have a calming influence on the inmates," said Richard Powell, head of Securicor Custodial. He was unveiling his company's plans for the medium-security Bridgend prison in Mid Glamorgan, South Wales, one of two private jails now under construction.

"We're going to be doing our best to reflect a more normal environment," he said. "At the moment a third of the staff we employ for prisoner escorting duties in London are women and I'd expect to see the same proportion at Bridgend."

But guarding prisoners is one thing. Building and operating a new jail is an entirely

different business. It calls for a high level of management skills and a deep understanding of how prison communities operate.

Securicor and its business competitors — such as Group 4 and American security firms Wackenhut and the Correction Corporation of America — are teaming up with construction and facilities management firms to bid for lucrative pickings under the Government's Private Finance Initiative. Up to 12 new jails are needed and all are expected to go down the PFI route with 25-year operating contracts each worth £250 million for the winning consortia.

The complete package, from design through to building and operation, is where the

Home Office is looking to the private sector to make its biggest contribution. Brian Landers, Prison Service financial director, says: "Putting operations at the top of the design agenda is where the real savings can be realised and where new methods can be tried."

The Government expects private operators to knock 25 per cent off the costs of running prisons through flexible working practices and management efficiencies.

Bridgend's inmates will have single cell accommodation and prisoners could be out of their cells for 14 hours a day. A large part of the day will be taken up with educational and industrial training programmes which Securicor will provide in partnership with

local colleges and the business community.

To build Bridgend, Securicor teamed up with construction firms Costain and Skanska, facilities management consultancy W.S. Atkins and the architect Richard Seiffert. Due for completion on December 15, when the first prisoners arrive and the Home Office starts paying the private operator, the jail incorporates the findings of two recent reports into prison security. Stuart Fraser, a Costain director, says: "To all intents and purposes this is a Category A jail. We are well ahead of the game."

An important part of the design are large multi-use buildings which minimise the need for prisoners to move between blocks and consequently the opportunities for escape. The design also avoids dog-leg corridors and blind turnings, and incorporates sight lines for CCTV monitoring. Cell furniture is what Mr Powell describes as "robust".

The Home Office — which has long employed women officers in its prisons — will have a permanent representative on site to monitor conditions and to adjudicate in disciplinary cases where prisoners could lose remission for misconduct.



Calming influence: watched by a woman warder, an inmate learns to work a lathe



Sign of the times: contracted workforces are taking over

Nursing a hospital back to health

Bernard Barbuk describes how outside managers have transformed the running of a hospital group

Facilities management is all about efficiency and saving money — right? Not as far as its growth within NHS hospital trusts is concerned. There, it has a lot to do with morale.

Take the Royal Liverpool University Hospital, for example. The city's social problems are well known. Poverty, vandalism and vagrancy are commonplace. So are shootings and other drug-related violence. Gunshot victims are delivered to the Royal Liverpool's door, and armed police are a common sight inside and outside wards. Meanwhile, thieves steal 20 cars a month from the hospital car park, and break into another 40.

The RLH is a highly engineered and ageing building, completed in two phases in 1965 and 1978. It has a backlog of maintenance. For years the hospital has had to work to its

maximum capacity. Some wards have not seen a lick of paint in years. It has never been possible to take them out of service for long enough.

Private investment has been hard to come by, says Alan Wilkes, the trust's executive head of finance. Eliminating such problems called for a complete change. In 1995 previous trust policy was reversed: tendering and outsourcing became the rule.

From April, the management, maintenance, and strategic planning of the "estate" was contracted out to Mowlem Facility Management (MFM) on a seven to ten-year fixed-fee contract. The development coincided with the merging of the RLH with the Broadgreen

psychiatric hospital, which has been managed as a separate trust.

However, despite emphasising the "open book partnership and team" basis of the relationship, it is still not clear whether the single management command structure has been established.

MFM is responsible for the "strategic management" of the combined trust's estate and its capital programme. The maintenance side of the contract it discharges via its own on-site management partner — the building services company Lorne Stewart. The 53 service personnel (inherited under TUPE, the Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment regulations) are Lorne

Stewart employees. Meanwhile, a number of other newly appointed contractors handle aspects of the estate more usually included in facilities management remits and report directly to the trust.

Thus, security is contracted to Securicor, greatly aided by a Sensormatic CCTV system. Catering, cleaning and portering is a five-year Taylor Plan contract and energy in the form of steam generation is contracted to AHS Emstar.

The first year has been encouraging: a 20 per cent saving on building maintenance costs. Security has improved; much-needed space and staff reductions have been

generated by the rationalisation with Broadgreen four miles away; building maintenance via a help-desk and call-out system is producing a better service with fewer people.

But most of the big leaps forward remain to be taken. For example, replacing the trust's idiosyncratic Unix-based Resman computer system. To quote Ken Thomas, MFM's manager on the spot, this is "strong on input, weak on reporting, and with interfaces limited to car parking and security". Then there is the plan to improve the building management system and introduce low-energy lighting.

Critics could also point to the report-intensive nature of the new regime, with monthly, quarterly, and annual reports from Mowlem/LS and separate monthly monitoring by the trust itself.

IN BRIEF

Atkins group favoured

ATCARE consortium, led by W.S. Atkins, is the preferred bidder to design, build, finance and operate a 308-bed extension to Wythenshawe Hospital, Manchester, and two other units on site. Atcare was selected by the South Manchester University Hospital NHS Trust for the Private Finance Initiative proposal, which has yet to receive Treasury approval. Other consortium members include Pall Mall Services and Alfred McAlpine Construction.

THE North Region of the British Institute of Facilities Management is holding a one-day seminar at the Old Trafford Cricket Ground, Manchester, on November 21.

The speakers include John Jack, chairman of Procord, Graham Briscoe, of Sun Alliance, and Alison Crompton, of GS Hall. Details: James Lodge on 0161-761 4663

BLENHEIM Exhibitions & Conferences is launching FM Expo North at the G-MEX Centre, Manchester, on October 22 to 23. It is expected to attract more than 150 exhibitors and up to 3,000 visitors.

SLOTZ, the vending machine distributor, has paid £16.5 million for Terence Piper, a company based in Chessington, Surrey, that designs and assembles drinks vending machines.

SIR Paul Condon and William Taylor, the Commissioners for the Metropolitan and City of London police forces respectively, will be among the speakers at a conference on urban security, organised by Symonds Travers Morgan on June 4 at the Institution of Civil Engineers in London. Details from Sue Curry on 0171-421 2000.

A £200,000 contract for the supply and installation of a building management system to control buildings at Devonport Royal Dockyard in Plymouth has been awarded to Andover Controls by DML, the yard's operator.

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THEATRE 1

Simon Gray exudes plenty of ennui in his new play for Chichester, *Simply Disconnected*



THEATRE 2

... while in Greenwich the hardships of 1930s Germany are evoked in *What Now, Little Man?*

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC 1

An aristocrat on the ivories: the superb Polish pianist Krystian Zimerman returns to the Festival Hall



MUSIC 2

... and another peerless soloist, the violinist Itzhak Perlman, charms and dazzles in the same venue

CONCERT

Fiddler in fine fettle

WITH a pianist as partner instead of an orchestral context, Itzhak Perlman's consummate fiddle-playing blossoms in a different way, with subtle degrees of light and shade and a relaxed assurance that becomes charmingly disarming.

It almost verged on glibness at the start of Mozart's B Flat Sonata (K454), with which he began his sell-out programme with Bruno Canino, a wise chamber pianist who threatened at first to coarsen the tone of his piano.

Both artists soon settled down, however, with the violinist relishing some throwaway phrases like the equivalents of verbal one-liners, and Canino instinctively matching his partner in the way sustained notes swelled

Perlman/Canino Festival Hall

out. Perlman kept the music in front of him, even when he had no need to refer to it, but perhaps it contained markings that helped towards such firm purpose and spritely spirit in their playing.

Mozart was followed by Fauré, whose youthful A major Sonata, written before those of both Brahms and Franck, was carried in long-breathed violin phrases that swept aside the disparaging remarks often made about it as impassioned eloquence alternated with sensitive feeling.

Both players captured the half-lights that lend a special poetry to the work without diminishing its strength of character, and with notably delicate piano figuration in the Andante movement.

The Franck Sonata itself benefited from expressive fervour in place of romantic rhetoric, the violin musing with gentle lyricism on the modestly contained subject-matter in the opening movement and deferring to the piano's leading voice. Canino met the challenges of the big-handed piano writing and its varied complexities, the violin soaring above like a skylark in full song while its deep G-string was used to generate passionate feeling.

Both players imparted a sense of cogent direction to the free fantasia of the sonata's third movement, and ended it with the most genial of poetic dialogues.

NOEL GOODWIN

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on Simon Gray's old character in a new play; plus other reviews

Number unobtainable

Simply Disconnected Minerva, Chichester

In John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*, the young Jimmy Porter denounced a Bishop of Bromley who implored Christians to support the H-bomb, and in *Dejávu* the old Jimmy Porter was even more scathing about a Bishop of Bromley who wore jeans at his enthronement and wrote a book called *An Unemployed Teenager Speaks with Christ*. The irritants had evolved in the 35 years that separated the original play from its sequel, but the malcontent had remained much the same.

Where Osborne robustly led, Simon Gray now follows, exuding relatively little of his usual waspish wit but plenty of his trademark ennui. When we first met his Simon Hench, publisher protagonist of *Otherwise Engaged*, he was listening to *Parsifal* after a day in which his wife told him she had a lover, an old school chum shot himself while muttering accusations into his answering machine, and his horrible lodger moved two horrible friends into the attic. Twenty-five years later we find him semi-retired in the country, yet rather less wholehearted when it comes to closeting himself up with his record-player. The irritants are much the same in *Simply Disconnected* but the malcontent has evolved and, Gray suggests, deepened.

If we remain unconvinced by Hench's deepening, it is not the fault of the actor who again plays him. The Alan Bates of *Otherwise Engaged* brought a truculent swagger to the business of fobbing off others. The Bates of *Disconnected* is sadder as well as older. His Hench still gets people's names wrong, still fakes interest in the problems they obsessively fling at him, still irks them with his emotional aphasia. But now he senses that he is a Martian who has been denied the compass that would give him his bearings on Earth, and at times he seems to rue it.

Especially in the first half of Richard Wilson's production, the plot does not hugely help Bates's performance or Gray's aims. Another ungrateful job is exploiting him, though this time he is not a lodger but the football hooligan boyfriend of "the girl who does my housework". The critic who interrupted him in *Otherwise Engaged* interrupts him again — in Gawn Grainger's performance a mellow, kinder man but still more nuisance



Fine cast, flawed idea: John Michie, Gawn Grainger, Charles Kay, Rosemary Martin, Benedick Bates, Alan Bates

than friend. His schoolmaster brother also reappears, this time played by Charles Kay and facing accusations of hanky-panky in the changing-room, but still envious, resentful and demanding. Several times, notably when Davina is discussed, I wondered if anyone who didn't know the earlier play would be puzzled by the sequel. But it is, I suppose, clear that Hench mourns the wife whom he

betrayed and impelled to betray him, and in the second half it becomes obvious that one of his offhand affairs has borne bitter fruit. A wild, stammering young man appears waving a gun — a super performance by Benedick Bates — and turns out to be the child of a student he casually seduced in his *Otherwise Engaged* phase. Very likely he is Hench's own son. Here is the play's problem. *Engaged* was brash, sardonic,

funny and half-sympathetic, half-judging of Hench's pathological search for privacy. *Disconnected* is less brazen, less funny and far less critical of a protagonist who, it turns out, years for a son of his own. That's why Hench offers housework to the boy who has just threatened to shoot him. That's why he ends up begging to babysit for another child that only might be his. He has disconnected his phone, hence the punning title,

but part of him wants to be connected. It is a commendable change, or discovery, of heart but, impressed though I was by Alan Bates's rapt looks and awful howls, I could not quite believe it. It is too radical and, an accusation I never thought I'd direct at Gray, too sentimental. The earlier play aims for less and scores. The sequel aims for more and, amusing and absorbing though it is, does not quite hit the mark.

John Allison talks to the uncompromising pianist Krystian Zimerman

Only perfection is acceptable

After a Festival Hall appearance four years ago, Krystian Zimerman was described by Max Loppert as "a superlatively fine pianist, on the way to becoming one of the world's master recitalists". That prediction has surely been fulfilled: when it comes to balancing technical perfection with playing of poise, eloquence and virtuosity, the 40-year-old Pole has few equals. Zimerman guards this quality by limiting his performances to under 50 a year, and one of these will take place on Friday when he returns to the Festival Hall with a programme of Haydn, Beethoven and Schubert. "It's an excellent place to make music in, because of the audience. I love the people there, and I always see the same faces when I step onto the platform." But it has been two years since his last appearance in London: he cancelled a performance of the Ravel G major Concerto last season when promised rehearsal time was reduced. "I'd invested a lot of time and money in playing this concerto — I'd bought a new piano especially and adjusted it for this particular piece. I had a precise idea of what I wanted to do in the rehearsals, and when one of them was cancelled I just thought it was too risky to go ahead. It's like someone asking if you really need four wheels for your car. This is our concert life today. We are driving on three wheels and somehow manage to get along. It's become a



Zimerman: "We're driving on three wheels today"

coincidence when something is really good. "I know the London orchestras are professional, very quick to learn. But the tendency to rehearse less means that certain interpretations are becoming the same around the world. In the Ravel concerto there are at least 25 mistakes being played by nearly every orchestra on nearly every recording. I have tremendous fun rehearsing with orchestras, so I don't see why I should cut it down. Is rehearsing so horrible that we have to get it over in very little time?"

Zimerman is scathing of the suggestion that these cutbacks reflect a shortage of money. "It's a lie. We say that we don't have the money, but we've just changed the priorities. Mankind has probably never had it better. For the authorities in

my home town of Basle to close the ballet next year — a company that has existed for 49 years — is a terrible misunderstanding. To close cultural institutions because of saving money — these are two ideas that just don't go together, and something we shouldn't allow our politicians to get away with." Such principled views are matched in Zimerman by a deep musical seriousness. He prefers to do his practising in his head. "Banging out something is not music. We don't develop muscles by repeating passages, we develop only transmission, and that's a purely psychological problem. If you touch even one note, it has to be a musical and artistic experience. But the need to solve interpretational problems in my head means I'm very distracted when there's Muzak around."

Restless and intellectually inquisitive, Zimerman always seems to be looking for problems to solve. His playing is powered at least in part by a tension between cerebral clarity and spontaneous emotionality: it is hardly surprising that one of his closest musical partnerships was with Bernstein. His interests range through art and literature to mathematics and computers. He speaks at least six languages, yet finds time to be a devoted husband and father. He laments the absence of the Renaissance ideal of a complete human being. But does he look back longingly to the "golden age" of pianism?

"I wouldn't call it a golden age. But people played differently — there were different expectations. The first major change came with records. I remember very well that Rubinstein said to me, 'I started to practise when I started to record — before that I played all over the place.' He thought this was a way forward, but it was also a way backwards — people lost their freedom when they invested everything in accuracy. Before records there was a completely different goal, and that was to mesmerise live audiences. Music was partly a visual thing. I can't imagine charismatic virtuosos like Paganini and Liszt making the same careers on record alone." Zimerman's own recordings for Deutsche Grammophon reveal much of his musical personality. His repertoire is wide, but as a Pole he finds Chopin, Szymanowski and Lutoslawski close to his heart. And Artur Schnabel is central to his life. "We met after I had won the Chopin Competition in 1975. He invited me for tea, and I walked out about one week later. I kept going back, we talked about so much. When I'm trying to solve a musical problem now, I remember what he told me 15 years ago. Only now with a lot of experience am I finding deeper levels of understanding for what I thought I understood before. I wonder how many levels there are!"

Krystian Zimerman plays at the Festival Hall on Friday 07/17-06/04/21

Survival of the smallest

What Now, Little Man? Greenwich

HANS FALLADA's novel *Kleiner Mann, Was Nun?* was the international bestseller of 1932. It told of a little husband, his little wife and their even littler baby struggling to survive amid the raging unemployment of the last Weimar years, and ended with them on the outskirts of Berlin, still enduring, with Willy saying "perhaps 1933 will be our year".

Perhaps it was, and the child would grow up to be a 14-year-old in Hitler's final army. The story has been staged many times and filmed, too, and this new production is by the valiant and admirable team at Greenwich Studio Theatre, making its first appearance on the main Greenwich stage. Margarete Forsyth directs an adaptation by Julian Forsyth that links the scenes, or covers the scene-changes if you look at it another way, with songs in the style. We are told, of the Comedian Harmonists, Germany's most popular musical group around 1930.

The period and the predicaments of the characters are, as in previous productions, fascinating. But the little man is not just little, he's too docile. Some of this may have been intentional on Fallada's part

— the ordinary man at the mercy of impersonal forces — and Clive Walton's performance goes some way towards countering accusations of simple-mindedness. But he cannot conceal the hero's dim, slightly drugged passage through the searier stretches of life. His mother's occupation as brothel-keeper he never comments upon, never ups and biffs her with a handy bottle of schnapps, although Anita Dobson's character, six parts screech to four parts treacle, cries out for some such reaction. He's just so sweet — and the same goes for Sharon Small's ever-plucky Emma. The production resourcefully uses an open set dominated by walls of tenement blocks, providing windows and lights of steps to speed the pace a little. As for the songs, it is of course very period and charming to have them sung in German, but any comment the words might be making will be missed by many.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Women at work

The Power of the Dog Orange Tree, Richmond

AS THE Orange Tree's season of 20th-century women's plays pushes on, shared concerns are emerging. In Ellen Dryden's new drama, as in Susan Glaspell's *The Verge*, being a nurturer proves a tricky business. Women are pulled between professional and personal commitments, are mothering on the one hand but inflicting damage on the other. Dryden's protagonist is a teacher at a comprehensive. Vivien (Joan Moon) is trying to coax Lisa (Louisa Millwood-Haigh), a difficult but bright pupil, into an appreciation of literature. She devotes time to special lessons yet is about to abandon her protégée, becoming a headmistress elsewhere. Meanwhile, Vivien skimps on her duties as a daughter. Paralysed down one side by a stroke, her feisty mother Grace (Barbara Lott being delightfully sardonic) is being

unwillingly cared for by Aunt Vera. Vivien's erstwhile surrogate mother (Georgina Anderson), Vera makes a show of devotion while crippling her sister spiritually.

This play spans the ages of women, contemplates Christian virtues, emotional ties and standing on your own two feet. Dryden's forte is her acute observations of domestic power moves. And she pens witty lines.

Sam Walters's cast mostly convey warm humour and rage. The old birds are terrific.

KATE BASSETT

THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

LONDON Victoria Palace May 25 ● WINNER of the Olivier Award for Best Musical, *Jolson* stars Brian Conley as Al Jolson, star of the first "talkie" and a Broadway legend. Tickets are £25 (normally £30) for Theatre Club members, who can also meet the cast after the show over a glass of wine. Tel 0171-834 1317

Strand Theatre June 3 ● SEE *Buddy* — the story of rock'n'roll legend Buddy Holly — and enjoy a drink with members of the cast for only £17 (normally £23). Members can also buy top-price tickets for £16 for Monday to Thursday performances throughout May and June. Tel 0171-930 8800

Apollo Theatre Until May 25 ● ZOE WANAMAKER takes the title role in A.R. Gurney's ingenious new romantic comedy, *Sylvia*. But this is no conventional lead — this time, Wanamaker is ... a dog. Tickets £15 (normally £21.50) for Mon to Thurs performances and Sat matinees until May 18 and £16 (normally £23.50) until May 25. Tel 0171-494 5070

GLASGOW Tramway May 25-June 1 ● TICKETS £5 (normally £10) for *Claustrophobia*, a high-octane music and dance performance by the acclaimed Maty Drama Theatre of St Petersburg. Tel 0141-257 3900

MANCHESTER Library Theatre June 4-16 ● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £7 to £12) for

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

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SALISBURY Playhouse May 15-24 ● APHRA BEHN'S best-loved work *The Rover* (May 16, 21, 23-24) is a deliciously witty Restoration comedy. Her lesser-known *The Banished Cavaliers* (May 15, 17, 21-23) is full of biting wit. Tickets for either production £8 (normally £10.50) for Tues to Thurs performances and £10 on Friday (normally £12). Tel 01722 320333

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DESIGN
 Not a lot of change out of £170 million? How the South Bank justifies its lottery bid



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Does this cause deserve £170m?

London's South Bank needs a lottery facelift — but must it be such an expensive one, asks Marcus Binney

The South Bank arts centre will soon be in pole position for the largest lottery grant of all. True, the £170 million cost of the South Bank proposals is less than the £213 million required for the refurbished Royal Opera House, but the lottery's contribution is likely to be much greater — up to 75 per cent — than the £78.5 million offered to Covent Garden.

The South Bank says that the £170 million is spread across seven venues and is a vital piece of urban regeneration beside Britain's new gateway to Europe, the Channel Tunnel terminus. Some 40,000 people work in the Waterloo area, another 5,000 live there. But

‘A more gradual approach might work better in the long term’

the South Bank, for all its glorious music, theatre and art, remains a sterile concrete wasteland disastrously out of character and contact with the rest of London.

So where will the £170 million go? The first £11 million (calculated at 1995 prices) is to be spent on the Hayward, providing it with a second set of exhibition galleries so it no longer has to close between shows. “At present there are no proper environmental controls, and nowhere to unload works of art in safety,” Jo Kennedy, the South Bank project director, says.

Another £11 million will go to the Queen Elizabeth Hall. The stage will be adapted for dance and lyric theatre as well as music, with facilities for flying scenery, side wings and an orchestra pit.

Next comes the one “bargain item” on the menu. It is a £1 million transfer of the National Poetry Library to new ground-level premises, followed by £3 million for new education spaces, including

revamping the Purcell Room. On the river front, there is to be a wholly new £12 million auditorium, highly flexible in format and accommodating between 250 and 580 people. “Seats can be taken out to create a theatre in the round, so both modern and older pieces can be staged as composed,” Kennedy says.

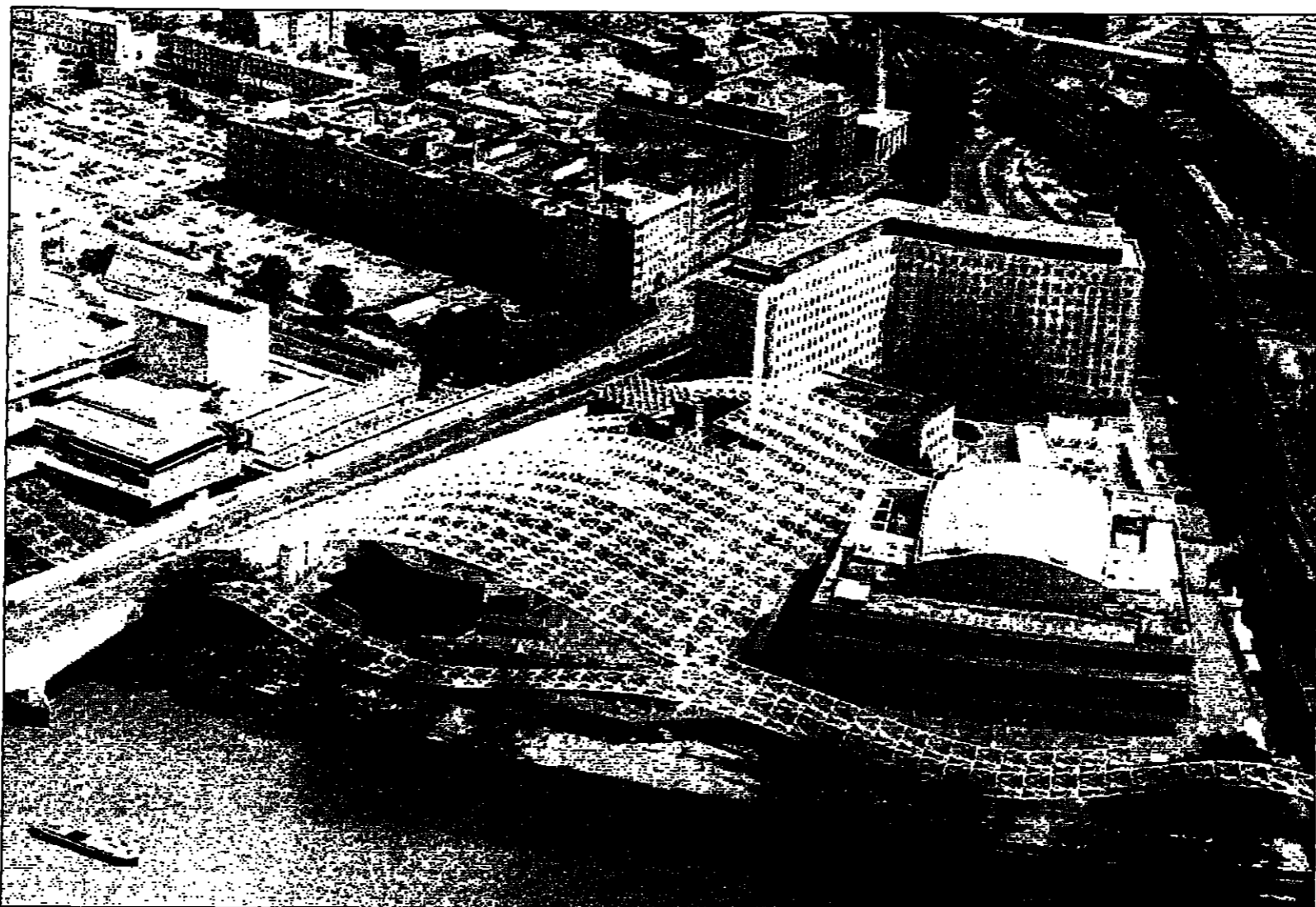
The most visible element of the scheme, Sir Richard Rogers's floating glass canopy over the Hayward Gallery and Queen Elizabeth Hall, (the “Crystal Palace”), comes in at £20 million, surprisingly good value given its size.

The latest technology allows it to be saddle-shaped and subtly asymmetrical, a worthy and beautiful heir to the great iron and glass train sheds of the 19th century.

By far the largest single item is the £35 million refurbishment of the Festival Hall by architects Allies & Morrison. They have already spent £3 million unpicking the worst meddling of the 1970s, with ravishing results.

The Festival Hall has always been acclaimed as one of the very best immediate post-war buildings in Europe, and the proposed refit is needed to bring it up to the top international technical standards demanded by conductors and orchestras. “The reverberation time is too short and needs lengthening,” Kennedy says. “Players can't hear themselves or each other. We would also create a space above the stage for flying scenery, so opera and ballet can be much better accommodated.”

What better advertisement could there be for music in Britain than for continental visitors to be sitting in one of the best concert halls in Europe within ten minutes of



A snip at £20 million? The floating glass canopy of Richard Rogers's “Crystal Palace” is only one of the proposals for the new-look South Bank

lighting from the Channel Tunnel train, without having to wait for a bus, Tube or taxi?

Next comes the least glamorous item, infrastructure, in the form of £20 million for improving services to buildings, access to the Museum of the Moving Image and the National Film Theatre, removal of many of the hated concrete walkways, new staircases, escalators, landscaping and signage (lovely word).

The Arts Council's £980,000 feasibility study, “shows that 95 per cent of people say the South Bank environment is appalling and puts them off coming,” Kennedy says. “Our objective is to raise numbers, from 3.3 million to 5.3 million

users a year, making the whole centre more viable.”

Finally, there is £6 million for “retail” shells (something you might think the retailers should provide for themselves), which will again provide increased revenue to support arts performances in the future. The South Bank is also working hard to raise its proportion of the finance and has set up the South Bank Foundation to raise funds, with the property developer Elliott Bernard as chairman.

All these items add up to £122 million. The remaining £48 million is nothing more or less than a frightening provision for inflation. Actual building costs are not forecast to

rise more than 5 per cent a year, so the larger part of the inflation provision will go towards meeting what can be termed the “Eighties” factor. This is a firm belief on the part of everyone on the lottery roller-coaster that, as the millennium approaches, and more and more lottery projects compete with each other, building prices will go mad, as they did in the 1980s.

Here I pull the communication cord. The use of lottery money to fuel a new bout of boom-then-bust should be unthinkable. If construction companies know in advance that there are huge budget provisions for millennium fever, they will price accordingly.

The Government must tell the lottery distributors (and, if the Government does not, the media will) that only standard building cost inflation will be tolerated. If contractors put in tenders above this, projects should be cancelled or postponed. With major European building companies competing, it must be possible to get reasonable prices.

The second great question that needs to be asked about the whole South Bank project is just who is in charge. A scheme this size needs a leader of towering energy and determination — over and above the project director — to get it built on time and on budget. There is none in sight. Without

one the South Bank risks becoming a British Library-style fiasco with spiralling costs and endless delays.

Let us imagine that the great South Bank lottery bid fails. The prospect of another decade or two of abortive arguments about how best to humanise this grim concrete wasteland is depressing in the extreme. But a more gradual approach might actually work better in the long term.

Give lottery grants to the Festival Hall, and one or two other items, including Rogers's Crystal Palace, but progress more slowly on the rest. This way, there might be a better chance of getting it right.

POP
Duo aim to please

IF SPACE aliens had beamed down into this venerable motherhood of a venue, they could hardly have appeared more out of place than Orbital.

This is, after all, the wilfully faceless electronic duo whose distaste for the rock world is legendary. Even in the wake of Orbital's two triumphant headline sets at Glastonbury and their most successful album yet, *In Sides*, entering the charts at No 5 last month, a dance act playing an opulent all-seater concert hall smacks of grand folly.

But in many ways this event is the natural culmination of six years of work by Paul and Phil Hartnoll. Their crusade to steer techno music away from the hedonistic euphoria of acid house towards political and emotional content has earned them a wide following.

Now, with the symphonic, soundtrack-tinged feel of *In Sides*, Orbital seem estranged from the dance sub-culture which originally nurtured them. Consequently this felt more like some lavish orchestral soirée than a pop concert.

But all that changed when the brothers arrived on stage. Beneath giant film screens flickering with poetic Jarmanesque imagery, and framed by blazing searchlights, they huddled behind a stack of keyboards to unleash 20-minute epics like *Out There Somewhere* and *The Girl with the Sun in her Head*.

Orbital Albert Hall

This is deadly serious music, with deeply human emotions stirring beneath its glacial techno surface. Semi-improvising each tune from hundreds of pre-programmed sequences, the Hartnolls retain an element of raw spontaneity lacking in most electronic acts. They also create space for haunting, atmospheric pieces like *The Box*, the duo's recent hit single, whose stark beats and sampled dulcimer refrain recall classic film scenes by John Barry and Lalo Schifrin.

The emotional charge, coupled with their willingness to embrace classical and cinematic influences, is undoubtedly the key to Orbital's appeal outside dance circles. And yet crafted subtlety takes a back seat with booming percussion accentuated over melody, and strobe lights and smoke machines coaxing their mostly youthful crowd to their feet for almost the entire two-hour performance.

So here, it seems, is Orbital's secret. For all their anti-star principles and anti-rock rhetoric, their grasp of showmanship is second to none. They remain unafraid to fall back on crowd-pleasing tricks like multimedia stage effects, or dropping droll Belinda Carlisle samples into the warm electronic contours of *Halcyon*, just as they did at Glastonbury.

Ultimately, Orbital play progressive music with a pop heart. And for an Albert Hall packed with partisan revelers, there's nothing alien about that.

STEPHEN DALTON

From cradle to Graves

Situated above the (currently closed) Sheffield main library, Graves Gallery is not the most accessible venue in Britain. But many of the adults queuing up three flights of stairs for the opening of its most recent Young at Art exhibition had had no trouble finding the place. For they themselves had once had works on show during the 30 or more years of Young at Art.

Indeed, one of the three-man team that installed the 1,100 paintings, sculptures, models and drawings in this year's show remembers her work being displayed. Now, her own child's creations are on view.

The work of 70 local schools is included under this year's theme of *The Moving Image*, a complement to the current celebrations of a century of cinema. The Lumière brothers showed their first film at the city's Empire Theatre on June 22, 1896.

But the exhibition is mercifully free of interpretations of Charlie Chaplin or even Mel Gibson. More challenging, the emphasis is on movement of all kinds. “Cinema may have been going for a hundred years, but moving images have been going rather longer,” says Vivienne Sillar, art education officer for Sheffield's galleries. She and her colleagues spent a fortnight covering two walls, floor to ceiling, with the children's work, and the effect is one of colourful exuberance.

Contributions have been grouped according to subject — the animal section is characteristically well-stocked. “Children will always want to draw animals, but the idea here is to capture a bird's flight or a caterpillar wriggling along,” Sillar says.

Earlier this year she staged a three-month exhibition of paintings, photographs, textiles and sculpture illustrating how artists such as Hockney and Frink have expressed movement. Some of the material was taken from the school lending service (a similar public lending service offers 1,400 works) but, naturally enough,

Jenny McClean joins the Sheffield parents learning what it means to be young at art

some children chose to go their own way.

Eleven-year-old Steven Sylvester's self-portrait expresses “my moving emotions: I was feeling angry at the time”. Alex Goodall, nine, painted a rhythmic old sewing machine, while 14-year-old Sarah Davis carved a house out of a block of plaster, an apparently still life until you spot the street scene etched on the front.

The after-effects of movement and the release of tension are vividly expressed in a large purple papier mâché model by Dean Rowbotham, 11, entitled *Relaxation*. And someone will want to keep as a family heirloom nine-year-old Emily Waterhouse's two small sculptures of *My Cousin Alice* learning to crawl.

At three-and-a-half, Emma Greenlees was too young to exhibit, but that did not stop her copying some of the work, such as a moving butterfly sculpture, into her sketchbook.



David Sanderson adopts a lofty approach to the 1,100 works currently on show at Graves Gallery in Sheffield

Her mother, Paula Greenlees, says she was struck by the variety but continuity of the theme and the high standards of the work. “I think art has been looked down on in schools in the past as a non-academic subject, but some of this looks very professional.”

Janice Hukin, one of a team of professional art teachers and visiting artists employed by the city to run weekend and school workshops, says: “One spin-off from the exhibition is that children bring people into the gallery who would not otherwise come; they would normally be too inhibited. Then, once they have been here, they feel they can come in again, and bring others. That way the gallery becomes something that belongs to the people of Sheffield.”

Hukin emphasises that Young at Art is not a competition. “We leave selection to the schools and the gallery treats contributions the same as it does other works of art. We would like to put all the children's sculptures in display cases, but we are down to basics at the moment.”

Two years ago the exhibition acquired its first, and so far only, sponsor. “We need more,” Hukin says, “to provide outlets for all the creativity that's in the city.”

Young at Art '96: The Moving Image is at the Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield S1 1NZ (0114 2735158) until June 22. ASANDOUR GUTZMAN

Loyd Grossman tells Simon Tait why he has devised Museums Week

Recipe to draw the crowds

When the financial going gets tough, many a museum gets going, calling on a sympathetic celebrity to lend his or her name to an appeal, and their media-friendly face to a campaign. Susan Hampshire and Michael Palin can usually be relied on to come through with support, while the late Paul Eddington exasperated his agent by giving more time than he could really afford to helping out his local Bristol museums.

But Loyd Grossman is another matter. The television cook and genial gaffer through the keyholes of other celebs is running a campaign for all of Britain's museums, Museums Week, devised and led by Grossman, began last year as a quirky Radio 2 event, but is launched again tomorrow with a flood of television and radio interviews. The week itself begins on Saturday — International Museums Day. The same day also sees the launch of *MAG*, a glossy magazine dedicated to museums and galleries, to which Grossman is contributing a restaurant review column.

He has got 350 MPs holding surgeries in their local museums — Austin Mitchell is driving to the Grimsby National Fishing Heritage Centre in a 1950s Austin — and he has got more than 650 museums, from the Corrigal Farm Museum in Orkney to the Porcelain Museum of Submarine Telegraphy in Cornwall, to do something special to attract new visitors. And *Radio Times* has a special two-for-one voucher for the week.

But why Grossman? Chopping carrots and watching television one Friday evening 18 months ago, he caught Graham Greene, then chairman of the Museums and Galleries Commission, on the local news pleading for the future of museums under local government reorganisation (councils have no obligation to look after museums).

“I was shocked to think that so many museums were being threatened and no one other than museum professionals seemed to be interested or concerned about it,” Grossman said. So he rang Greene,



Grossman: our museums rank with the world's best

This was not Friday night whimsy. Grossman has been a “museum user” — he dislikes the term “visitor” in this context, and detests “customer” — since as a child his furniture-dealer father used to trail him around Massachusetts museums. It was a habit he never lost.

When he was at the London School of Economics he nipped into the Sir John Soane's Museum most lunchtimes, and these days he is as likely to find himself at the other museum Soane designed, the Dulwich Picture Gallery. “Part of the greatness of Dulwich is that the pictures are incomparably enhanced by the setting. That's why the whole place works. I'm often amused by Bill Gates's idea that you can have any picture on your wall you want through technology. Yeah, you can, but it ain't the same, is it?”

He reckons to “use” a museum two or three times a week. “There's always a museum on the way to where I'm going or where I've just come from, and sometimes I'll pop in to look at one thing, or just have a cup of coffee.”

Rather than merely offer to add his name to a list, he managed to bring round one

table all the national museum organisations, not always close allies: the MGC, the Museums Association (the professional curatorial body), the Association of Independent Museums and the British Association of Friends of Museums. Together they created the Campaign for Museums, run by him, whose principal purpose is to establish this week as an annual rallying point.

He wants to impress on the Government the vital importance of museums to British culture, and on the uninitiated public the “usability” of museums now. “We are blessed with around 2,000 museums which are among the best in the world, and many of which are certainly the most eccentric in the world. So the quantity and quality of British museums has had a very powerful effect on the quality of life for the people who live here, and they have been an incredibly important magnet for attracting visitors from abroad.”

He doesn't play the economic card of suggesting that a museum plunked in a rundown town centre is going to revive the fortunes of a community. “There comes a time when you have to say we support museums because they're good for us. They are as good for society as the National Health Service, as education. I want to say that, instead of coming up with some incredibly mundane argument about spending.”

What is irritating is the presence of National Lottery millions and their tantalising inaccessibility for what really needs doing. The Heritage Lottery Fund is announcing the completion of a clutch of lottery-funded museum projects in and around the week: the Catalyst chemical industry museum's new gallery in Widnes; the RNLI

lifeboat museum opening in Chatham; Gillingham Museum in Dorset where the volunteer curator has sold his local ironmongery so he can become full-time director; and the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry's new virtual reality exhibit.

But it is not enough. “We want the lottery to join us to help to pay for some of the core functions that are being eroded,” Grossman says. “There's suddenly this idea that museum directors should behave like businessmen. I would love to see the museum community escape from the constant atmosphere of crisis management and concentrate on the things they have been trained to do, like the stewardship of important treasures, like educating people.”

“What other institution has so much that appeals to so many different people? I hope that for the millennium the museums will make the idea of a learning society more of a reality. For Museums Week, I want to get across what one of the committee calls the Ladybird Book Message: Museums are Good.”

GALERIE RUSSE DU CENTRE

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CHOICE 1

A.S. Byatt gives a public reading from her novel, Babel Tower

VENUE: Tonight at the Purcell Room

CHOICE 2

The baritone Thomas Allen sings at the Newbury Festival

VENUE: Tonight at the Corn Exchange

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 3

David Essex's ice show, Beauty and the Beast, opens in Northampton

VENUE: All this week at the Dergate

OPERA

In Munich, Tan Dun's Marco Polo, to a libretto by Paul Griffiths, receives its first performance

NEW OPERA: Kublai Khan's stately but puzzling pleasure dome; Wilde defied

Getting lost is half the fun

Marco Polo Munich Biennale

The Chinese-born (1957), New York resident composer, Tan Dun had a stroke of bad luck last year when the Proms premiere of his new piece, Orchestral Theatre II: Re, was scotched by that infamous power failure: the Proms will have another go on August 7.

Meanwhile his far longer, more overtly theatrical piece Marco Polo was premiered last week at the Munich Biennale. It was originally commissioned by the Edinburgh Festival, and will be performed at the Holland and Hong Kong Festivals before coming to the Scottish capital (no concrete plans yet).

The libretto is by Paul Griffiths, inspired by — rather than specifically drawn from — his elusive, endlessly intriguing novel Myself and Marco Polo, which played games with time, place and indeed the very idea of the novel. Tan's piece — 110 minutes, without a break — plays similar games with Griffiths and music-theatre.

There are few words; most are in English but some in Chinese or Italian; sentences, even syllables, are fragmented and passed from singer to singer. Drawing on his experience with Peking Opera, Tan uses the extremes of vocal range and vocalises on unlikely syllables, where diction is not a primary concern (for indeed possibility). So audiences should not expect a musico-dramatic experience in any conventional sense.

Instead, text is used as part of a musical fabric, just as Griffiths's toying with a journey that may or may not have taken place is used as the basis



Thomas Wong (left), an enormously impressive Polo père in Tan Dun's gripping deconstruction of Marco Polo

for quite another kind of journey of exploration — the one the composer himself makes between Eastern and Western music.

A Monteverdian fanfare sits beside Peking Opera patterns, liturgical chant beside Ligeti-style "skat". There are sudden unison "big tunes", rather after the manner of the Yellow River Concerto; there is neo-Rimskyian exoticism, although the precise irony intended in these Turandot-in-reverse procedures is hard to fathom.

But there is no doubting the sarcasm of a long quote from the Drinking Song (delivered by mezzo rather than tenor) from Mahler's Song of the Earth: "No!" shouts the Chinese tenor Shi Zheng Chen (Li Po, doubling Rustichello), and he has to shout it four times before she shuts up.

Marco Polo certainly stretches the term "music theatre": it is renaissance, rather, of such hybrids as Falla's "scenic cantata" L'Atlantida, a musical sound and time-scape

with figures. Within such lack of context (there are no stage directions in the score) Martha Clarke's production was elegantly inventive and, thanks to the designers Debra Booth and Jane Greenwood, beautiful to behold.

Simply as an act of concentration, the singing was enormously impressive, especially from Thomas Wong as Polo père, and Susan Bötti as Water, handling Zerbiniata's coloratura with ease and at one point imitating a Beethoven

with uncanny accuracy. The Chinese bass Dong-Jian Gong sang Kublai Khan with perfect gravity.

The composer conducted, ensuring that the musical journey gripped the imagination and nullified mild, lingering frustration at the lack of conventional dramatic content. The sound-world he created was unique, and dull would be the soul declining the invitation to enter it.

RODNEY MILNES

No way to treat a Wilde creature

The Picture of Dorian Gray Monte Carlo

Monte Carlo is the limit of the American composer's inspiration. He finally gives himself away and wrecks whatever he has achieved when, at the climax of the opera, Dorian destroys his portrait and dies to an orchestral sound indelibly and distractingly associated with an impressive vista behind one of the doors in Duke Bluebeard's castle. The most promising moment — in an opera destined for first performance at the Prémets des Arts in Monte Carlo — is when Liebermann introduces the

song about The Man who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo. But as he goes on to treat it in much the same way as Wozzeck, the independent air eludes him even here.

The other challenge for Liebermann, parallel to that of setting Dorian Gray to music, was making a libretto out of a book which is really a portrait of Oscar Wilde reflected, as he liked to see himself, in the so devastatingly seductive Lord Henry Wootton. Something of his decadent philosophy and one or

two of his aphorisms get into the text but inevitably — since music is not very good at that kind of thing — not enough of them to motivate Dorian's moral decay.

John Cox's production for Monte Carlo Opera compensates to some extent by clearly presenting John Hancock's Lord Henry as Wilde and Jeffrey Lentz's Dorian Gray as his creature. To the same purpose, the conductor, Stewart Bedford, secures elegant singing performances from both of them. But there are obstacles — a rapid suicide aria for Sibly Vane, a low-life tavern scene, a high-society shooting party — which not even they can overcome.

As for the picture of Dorian Gray, exposed from time to time in Stephen Brimston Lewis's studiously bare artist's studio set, it is marginally more attractive in its final manifestation than in the smugly youthful original.

GERALD LARNER

LONDON

THE PAINTER OF DISHONOUR: Calderon's trusty psychological thriller, with John Castle as the tormented painter, Laurence Bouvard directs. P.L. Barham, Silk Street EC2 (0171-638 8811). Preview on Friday, the music-opera Sarah Walker joins for songs and duets by Barham, Schumann and Mahler.

OPERA SHOWCASE: National Opera Studio presents fully-staged excerpts from Puccini's Tosca, Boat's The Feast Fishes, Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring and Mozart's La Finta Giocatrice. Daily rehearsals direct, and Roy Leighton directs. Bournemouth Sinfonietta (Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7pm) Over at the Purcell Room (7.30pm). A.S. Byatt — reading from her novel Babel Tower — and David Malouf give the spring reading in the Purcell Room (8pm).

BEAST ON THE MOON: Richard Kainowski's award-winning play about two survivors of the 1915 Armenian massacres settles in Milwaukee. Directed by Irene Brook. One of two current plays about Armenia. BAC, 176 Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Opens tonight, 8pm. Tue-Sat 8pm. Sun 5pm.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED): The RSC's (Produced Shakespeare Company) popular, potty rough-housing of the 1911 edition. Criterion, Pocklington, York (0171-369 1737). Wed-Sat, 8pm. Mon-Thurs, 3pm. Sat, 5pm and Sun, 4pm.

THE END OF THE BANTH: Samanthia Bond, Michael Shaw and Tom Morrison in David Lan's puzzle, set in the Balkans and to do with coffee, freedom and the Albanian National (Colloidal). South Bank, SE1 (0171-426 2252). Tonight, 7.30pm. Mat 2.30pm. In rep. (6).

INSPIRED CALLS: Stephen D'Adda's powerful production, with David Ross as the all-knowing Kipling, and Edward Peel and Estelle Kohler as the pillars of society.

MR HOLLAND'S OPUS (PG): Thirty years of a music teacher's life. With Meagan Gilfe, with Richard Dwykes. Director, Stephen Hill. The Old Vic, Old Vic Square (01426-815 683).

STONEWALL (15): Events leading up to the 1969 Stonewall riots. Wayne celebration of gay history. Directed by Guillermo Diaz and Fredericka Weller. Director, Nigel Finch. Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3523). Night. Preview (0171-437 3561). Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-566 6279). Notting Hill Coronet (0171-727 6705).

WHITE SOUL (12): Jet Bringer's dream strip based on the Waterlogged drama with a splendid score. Director, Ridley Scott. MGM Fulham Road (0171-437 3561). Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-566 6279). Notting Hill Coronet (0171-727 6705).

DEAD MAN WALKING (15): Oscar winner Susan Sarandon visits Sean Penn on his way to the gallows. Capricorn, Fulham Road (0171-437 3561). Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-566 6279). Notting Hill Coronet (0171-727 6705).

MARY REILLY (15): Gloomy reworking of Jeffrey and Hyde, seen through the eyes of Julia Roberts's housemaid. With John Malkovich. MGM Fulham Road (0171-437 3561). Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-566 6279). Notting Hill Coronet (0171-727 6705).

BARB WIRE (15): Dull trash, with Broadway star Pamela Anderson. Live location set in a London warehouse. Director, David Homer.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Moxey

ELSEWHERE

LIVERPOOL: Evelyn Glennie continues her solo tour around Britain, playing a fascinating array of instruments, from marimba to minicase, bongos to congas. The evening programme of nine percussionists John, Paul and Joseph Schwenker's Valoches Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street (0151-709 3789). Tonight, 7.30pm. Next in Glasgow, Royal Concert Hall (0141-227 5517), Friday.

NEWCASTLE: The baritone Thomas Allen, with Malcolm Martens at the piano, gives a celebrity recital as part of the year's 18th International Newbury Spring Festival. The programme features works by Beethoven, Brahms, Mussorgsky, Butterworth and Britten. Carrs Exchange, Market Place (01636 527253). Tonight, 7.30pm.

NORTHAMPTON: A musical ice spectacle, featuring the Russian All Stars — continuing 20 former Olympic, World and European

to changing one's life. Splendid cast. Hapstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 0211). Mon-Sat, 8pm, Mat Sat, 4pm. Sun, 11am.

TAP DOGS: Dean Perry's sextet of dancers in working-boots returns to its building-site set. High energy stuff. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 2048). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm and 8.45pm.

TOLSTOY: F. Murray Abraham plays the complicated novelist and Germaine Jones his idealized wife, clashing at each other in James Goldman's play about their curdled marriage. Jack Hildes directs. Aldey, Aldey, WC2 (0171-416 6003). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

BLOOD BROTHERS: Phoenix (0171-369 1733). In Color New London (0171-437 3561). Director, Dariusz Duzdzial (0171-494 5070).

THE MUSICAL: Cambridge (0171-494 5070). Director, Dariusz Duzdzial (0171-494 5070).

THE MOUNTAINS: Martin's (0171-494 5070). Director, Dariusz Duzdzial (0171-494 5070).

THE WOMAN IN BLACK: Phoenix (0171-369 1733). Director, Dariusz Duzdzial (0171-494 5070).

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LONDON GALLERIES

Shakespeare: Derek Jarman: Artist, Film-Maker, Designer (0171-638 4141). ... British Museum: Benet: Uncovering the Past (0171-638 1555). ... Llewellyn Alexander: Godfrey Tennyson (011-620 1322). ... Hall Galleries: Royal Society of Portrait Painters (0171-930 8944). ... Masters of London: London on Fire (0171-420 0505). ... National Gallery: Old Master paintings from Rome's La Doria Pamphili Gallery (0171-747 2986). ... Royal Academy: Gustave Courbet (0171-439 7438). ... Tate: Mariano Dumas (0171-887 8000). ... V & A: William Morris (0171-638 6501).

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Jennai Cox previews a three-part television series which clearly demonstrates why secretaries cannot be typecast

Secret world of secretaries

Miss Moneypenny aside, it is almost impossible to name a well-known secretary. For a job that has transformed the lives of thousands of women, the position has had a very low profile.

A three-part television series exploring the evolution of the secretary and her relationship with the boss hopes to change that. *I'll Just See If He's In*, starting next Tuesday, will shock some, surprise many and inform those whose idea of a secretary is simply an efficient typist.

Emma Willis, the main producer, who spent six months making the first two 40-minute programmes of the series, describes the story that emerges as a "double-edged sword" for women. "The job gives them huge opportunities, but it is also a role which has proved very hard for some to get out of," she says. Ms Willis set out to make a series which did not shy away from that contradiction.

When the idea was put forward by two BBC secretaries last year, Ms Willis thought it would be a doddle. "Making the series was extremely demanding. I have never had to speak to so many

people in all my life," she says. "I felt a great responsibility because hardly anything has been done about this subject before. I wanted to do it justice and certainly did not want to offend anyone."

Finding archive material, used in particular for the second programme on the history of the secretary, was one of the most difficult aspects of the research. "It is such an obvious subject and I thought there would be loads of material," Ms Willis says. "We came across lots of documentary footage on miners and other pieces of social history, but nothing on secretaries. I'm sure if it had been a man's job there wouldn't have been a problem."

The world of secretaries remains a relatively difficult one to penetrate, Ms Willis discovered. Dozens of high-profile PAs who lead extremely interesting lives were not prepared to come out into the limelight. "Their work is their livelihood and they are used to being in the background. It was very hard to get people to talk," she says.

Three secretaries and their bosses eventually agreed to participate in the first programme on their relationships. Each pair are on

different working terms; the first treat each other as equals; the second boss employs a secretary to boss her around; and the third pair have a traditional relationship, with the secretary still addressing her boss as Mr Smith.

The first programme goes some way to explain why the male PA has never caught on and why secretaries could never be replaced by machines. Ms Willis says: "People talked to me about the march of technology asking: 'Whither the secretary?' It is all rubbish because the essential relationship has not changed: it's still about human partnerships."

She was struck most by the wide range of people who become secretaries and how much the job varies. "We couldn't make any sort of generalisation as the job seems to have scooped up almost every kind of woman," she says. "There is no equal type of work for men."

This was largely, she discovered while researching its history, because of the narrow range of options for women. The invention of the typewriter turned a once prestigious, male-dominated job into one of machine operator and therefore one which was handed

over to women. By about 1920 the role had been dramatically transformed and companies were able to employ quality women at relatively low wages.

Being a secretary, however, meant something special to the older generation. "They used to train for three years, and they still have the words personal assistant because they think it is prestigious," Ms Willis says. "But now you hardly hear the word secretary: it has lost its meaning."

Although she accepts that the secretarial role is still regarded as a subordinate one, she thinks there is nothing wrong with its status. "It is the perception that is the problem," she says. "The fact that the job is so different from person to person and company to company is quite destructive: it is hard to make a profession of something that is so varied."

The third programme focuses

on five women who wanted a profession and — unlike the men they replaced — had to break out of the secretarial mould to have one. Women, such as Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker of the House of Commons, who started as secretaries, had to fight for something with greater recognition.

Some have fond memories of their time as secretaries while others hated it. Sian Brady, who set up a computer cabling installation company, now refuses to employ any secretaries.

Ms Willis adds: "I wanted to bring them to the fore and say to people: 'Look, this is interesting because this is how women are perceived at work and to a great extent, in society as well.'" She thinks this is illustrated by the fact that it has taken women 150 years to bring the secretarial role back to where it started when done by men, as a job with status and prospects.

But she felt it a great privilege to work on a relatively undocumented subject. "There were no experts to consult and the only people who talk on the series are secretaries and their bosses. She also eagerly awaits the response from men, particularly those with secretaries of their own. "A lot of them have no idea what their secretaries do all day," Ms Willis says.

I'll Just See If He's In begins on BBC2 on May 21 at 9.45pm.



Blue-ribbon ladies: Joyce Sarling, Marion Aley-Parker and Audrey Martin — three secretaries who star in the BBC series *I'll Just See If He's In*

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Timeshare tears increase

Rachel Kelly on new rules to protect timeshare customers

Complaints against aggressive timeshare operators are on the increase. Figures are up by 50 per cent, according to the Timeshare Helpline. Touts are resorting to new ploys in a last effort to sell their wares before tough European Union laws are introduced next year.

The Timeshare Helpline reports about 30 complaints a week in resorts in Spain, the Canaries and the Balearics. These areas have no effective legislation to protect timeshare buyers against controversial selling methods, as there is no cooling-off period in force. This number of complaints is almost twice the figure received a year ago, in proportion to the number of resorts where touts are operating.

Touts are trying new ways to tempt consumers, says Lacey Leighton from the Helpline. "They now don't say they are timeshare companies, but say they are sponsored by credit companies. Nobody admits it is a timeshare presentation... they will say something like, 'You've won a holiday... come and see this hotel complex'."

The levels of deposits which can potentially be lost have also risen. Previously, consumers stood to lose several hundred pounds; now the sums are around the £1,000 mark, Ms Leighton says.

Several timeshare operators are offering to arrange for consumers' homes to be remortgaged to help to pay for the timeshare. They promise they will pay such low interest rates that new mortgages will be cheaper than consumers' current ones, even with the timeshare included.

Atlas Balear, which operates in Majorca and Gran Canaria, has offered new mortgages with the Leicester-based Mortgage Advice Centre and told customers that



HOW ONE COUPLE WERE TEMPTED TO BUY

CAROLYN and Richard Seffe (above) were in Alcudia when Atlas Balear sold them a timeshare at the Garden Lago resort. They say they were told that if they remortgaged their home in Ebbw Vale, Gwent, through the Mortgage Advice Centre, their mortgage would be reduced and they would have a week's

timeshare effectively free. Back at home in Wales, the Seffes found that they would actually be paying £12,000 for the timeshare. They cancelled the mortgage agreement but were told that they could not cancel the timeshare. They have so far failed to recover the 1987 deposit.

if they are not happy with the arrangement when they return home they can cancel. Many people have tried to do so when they discover the mortgage rates are much higher than first quoted. It is then they realise they can cancel only the remortgaging agreement, not the timeshare contract. The centre is being investigated by the Office of Fair Trading after complaints from more than 40 people about Atlas Balear at the helpline.

In Britain, the Timeshare Act gives a 14-day cooling-off period during which time consumers who have agreed to buy a timeshare can change

their minds. But this does not cover contracts signed abroad except in Portugal, Madeira and France.

From April 1997, European Union rules will require resorts to provide a disclosure document on request to all buyers. This will give them the right to a cooling-off period of ten working days in which to cancel the contract, a period which can be extended for up to three months if the timeshare resort fails to provide the required information.

However, Ms Leighton gives warning that even the ten-day cooling-off period may not protect consumers sufficiently. "Ten days is not very

long, when you are on holiday for two weeks, to discover what people are up to. No matter how good the deal may seem, always seek professional advice," she says.

The Helpline has issued a list of companies that have come in for particular criticism by consumers. They include Atlas Balear, United Paradise which operates at resorts in Tenerife, Rockwell International which operates on the Costa del Sol, and companies operated by Island Financial Services of Brentwood, Essex, which operates in Tenerife.

A spokeswoman for the Timeshare Council, which

represents timeshare companies and owners, agreed that these companies were responsible for most complaints.

"We are engaged in the talks with the major players to try to stop disreputable practices. The vast majority of timeshares are sold with no problems," she said. More than three million households own timeshares at more than 4,000 resorts worldwide.

The Timeshare Council is a trade association which gives advice and can alert consumers to problem firms (071-821 8845). The Timeshare Helpline (0181-236 0200) may be able to help consumers to get their money back.

Send in the Marines' civvy replacements

The Royal Marines' site at Deal is for sale

The Royal Naval College at Greenwich it is not, but the Royal Marines School of Music at Deal is still of considerable architectural and historic interest.

It was here that in 1989 an IRA bomb killed 11 bandsmen. For two centuries military music was taught to members of the Armed Forces at the school. There are three listed buildings among the 69 on the site, including the very fine naval hospital on the East Barracks, and the officers' mess on the South Barracks.

Now the site is up for sale for an undisclosed price through the agent Hillier Parker. The school was closed this March despite an emotional campaign to prevent it moving, lock, stock and big bass drum to new quarters at HMS Nelson, Portsmouth. The decision caused an outcry from people in the Kent town, which has had a Royal Marines presence for 200 years.

The sale is unlikely to provoke criticism along the lines of that which greeted the sale of the Royal Naval College, the future of which has now been secured by the setting-up of an architectural trust. The conservationist group Save Britain's Heritage is pleased the site is being sold in that there is hope that a new use will be secured for the buildings.

Emma Phillips, from Save Britain's Heritage, said: "This is a very sensitive site with a number of listed buildings and rare open spaces. The reuse of these rare Georgian buildings will allow the public to appreciate and view them. The

buildings are in a good state and the site can provide good views, as at Eastney and Winchester."

Consumers can expect that at least some of the site is likely to be redeveloped for residential use. Other former military and naval sites have been successfully redeveloped.

Take Try Homes' redevelopment of Peninsula Barracks in Winchester, for example. More than 60 flats have already been sold at the redevelopment through Hampsons, the agent which has recently merged with Cluttons London Residential.

Such sites combine central locations and historic buildings. The School of Music sits on 45 acres in the centre of Deal. Nicola Maxted, from Hillier Parker, emphasises that it is unlikely that the whole site would be redeveloped for residential use, but that a variety of users, some institutional, some educational, some leisure, have already expressed interest. She is confident of a successful sale which will profit the taxpayer.

David Shaw, the Tory MP for Dover, however, cautions that developers may not be tempted by the three separate sites and barracks complexes, given the cost of redeveloping

the 69 buildings. There is also insufficient road access. Miss Maxted claims that planners have addressed the road access problem.

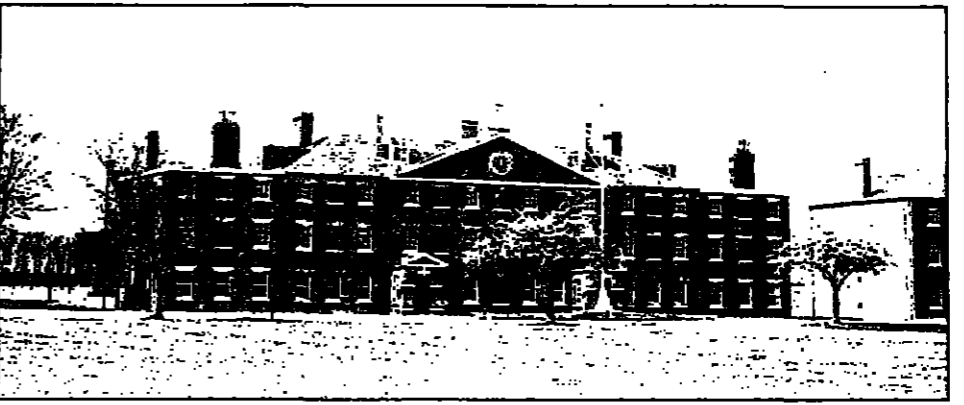
Mr Shaw says that parts of the site are unlikely to be sold for a profit. Last year Cluttons, the agent, valued the three sites at minus £5 million. It would cost £5 million more to maintain the buildings than a developer could make by building houses, the survey found. A spokesman for the MoD rejected the figures.

Mr Shaw said: "Some of the buildings would be unsuitable for conversion into offices, because you couldn't get the computer networking in. It was obviously a great tragedy that the school closed. Now the people of Deal want a use for the buildings which ideally would create jobs. What is particularly upsetting is the uncertainty surrounding these buildings. There is a fear they could stay empty for a while."

Local people are keen to see a new resource provided for the town. Audrey Elliott, the former Mayor of Deal, said people accepted the need to sell the site. She would like to see the South Barracks turned into a sports complex.

The buildings date in part from the late 18th century when a cavalry barracks was established in Deal, with subsequent extensions. The Marines took over the old Navy barracks and hospital in 1860. Later, Deal became one of the main bases of the Marines.

RACHEL KELLY



The classic facade of the South Barracks, home to the officers' mess before the closure

Court of Appeal

Balancing interests of children

In re P (Minors) (Contact)
Before Lord Justice Hirst and Mr Justice Wall
[Judgment May 9]

A judge had not been entitled, in the exercise of his discretion, to make an order refusing direct contact between a father and his children because of the mother's hostility, even though his decision involved no error of principle and was based on the likely effect on the children of any deterioration in their mother's health due to stress and anxiety, as insufficient weight had been given to the importance to the children of maintaining face to face contact with their father and the evidence did not justify a finding that the mother's attitude would put the children at serious risk of major emotional harm if she were to be compelled to accept a degree of contact with the father against her will.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal from a decision of Mr Recorder Spon-Smith, on October 18, 1995, at Bromley County Court, directing that the father should have only indirect contact with his children; having previously ruled, on August 4, 1994, that the father should have direct contact, under supervision, for one hour each month.

Mr Michael Phillips for the father; Miss Ayesha Hasan for the mother; Mr Harry Turcan for the guardian ad litem.

MR JUSTICE WALL said that counsel for the father, rightly in his view, submitted that the recorder was not guilty of any error of principle. He said that his error was in the balancing exercise and that the critical weight he gave to the risk to the mother's health vitiated the exercise of his discretion and rendered his decision plainly wrong.

Counsel for the mother relied, inter alia, on the recorder's finding that the parties would find it impossible to stop denigrating each other and on the consequences to the children in having contact with their father in the well known speech of Lord Fraser of Tullybelton in *G v G* [1985] 1 WLR 647. In that she was supported by counsel for the guardian ad litem.

Lord Fraser in *G v G* had cited with approval the judgment of Sir John Arnold, President, in the Court of Appeal in the same case [1985] 1 WLR 657, and the judgment of Lord Justice Cunniffe-Bruce in *Clarke-Hunt v Newcombe* (1984) 4 FLR 482, 486) who had said:

"There was not really a right solution; there were two alternative wrong solutions. The problem for the judge was to appreciate the factors pointing in each direction and to decide which of the two bad solutions was the least dangerous having regard to the long-term interests of the children, and so he decided the matter."

"Whether I would have decided it in the same way if I had been in the position of the trial judge I do not know. I might have taken the same course as the judge and I might not, but I was never in that position. I am sitting in the Court of Appeal deciding a quite different question: has it been shown that the judge to whom Parliament has confided the exercise of discretion, plainly got the wrong answer? I emphasise the word 'plainly'."

Counsel for the mother relied strongly on that passage. The recorder, she submitted, could have gone either way. He went one way. This court could not say he was plainly wrong to do so.

In his Lordship's judgment, that argument, powerful as it was, left out of account the duty of the Court of Appeal carefully to examine the recorder's conduct and to interfere if it took the view that an error in the balancing exercise was of sufficient gravity to vitiate the exercise of his discretion.

That duty was expressed by Lord Fraser in *G v G* by reference to quotations from the decision of the Court of Appeal in *In re F (A Minor) (Wardship: Appeal)* [1976] Fam 238) and, in particular, from the judgment of Lord Justice Bridge who had said (at p266):

"The judge was exercising a discretion. He saw and heard the witnesses. It is impossible to say that he considered any irrelevant matter, erred in law or applied any wrong principle. On the view I take, his error was in the balancing exercise."

"He either gave too little weight to the factors favourable, or too much weight to the factors adverse to the father's claim that he should retain care and control of the child."

"If in any discretion case concerning children the appellate court can clearly detect that a conclusion, which is neither dependent on nor justified by the trial judge's advantage in seeing and hearing witnesses, is vitiated by an error in the balancing exercise, I should be very reluctant to hold that it is powerless to interfere."

Neither Miss Hasan nor Mr Turcan suggested here that the exercise of the recorder's discretion depended on his seeing and hearing the witnesses. Each submitted, however, and it was a submission which had force, that the recorder had the particular advantage of judicial continuity: he had tried the case at all its relevant stages. That was an important point of which his Lordship did not lose sight.

legitimate conclusion that there must have been an error of method — apart, of course, from a disclosed inclusion of irrelevant or exclusion of relevant matters."

In order to answer fully Sir John Arnold's question it was necessary not only to examine the factors which appeared in the instant case, but to remind oneself of the underlying principles which applied in such cases.

Although not cited to the recorder there was no doubt that the definitive exposition of those principles was to be found in the judgment of Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, in *In re O (Contact: Imposition of conditions)* (The Times March 17, 1995; [1995] 2 FLR 124, 128C-130D).

His Lordship summarised the principles set out therein as follows: 1. Overriding all else, as provided by section 1(1) of the Children Act 1989, the welfare of the child was the paramount consideration, and the court was concerned with the interests of the mother and the father only in so far as they bore on the welfare of the child.

2. It was almost always in the interests of a child whose parents were separated that he or she should have contact with the parent with whom the child was not living.

3. The court had power to enforce orders for contact, which it should not hesitate to exercise where it judged that that would overall promote the welfare of the child to do so.

4. Cases did, unhappily and infrequently, but occasionally, arise in which a court was compelled to conclude that in existing circumstances an order for immediate direct contact should not be ordered, because so to order would injure the welfare of the child; see *In re D (A Minor) (Contact: Mother's hostility)* [1993] 2 FLR 1, 7) per Lord Justice Waite.

5. In cases in which, for whatever reasons, direct contact could not for the time being be ordered, it was ordinarily highly desirable that there should be indirect contact so that the child grew up knowing of the love and interest of the absent parent with whom, in due course, direct contact should be established.

The phrase used by Sir Thomas Bingham in the formulation of the second principle was "almost always". In supporting it he cited the judgment of Lord Justice Balcombe in *In re J (A Minor) (Contact)* [1994] 2 FLR 729, 736B-C).

"But before concluding this judgment, I would like to make three general points. The first is that judges should be very reluctant to allow the implacable hostility of one parent (usually the parent who has a residence order in his or her favour) to deter them from making a contact order where they believe the child's welfare requires it. The danger of

allowing the implacable hostility of the residential parent (usually the mother) to frustrate the court's decision is too obvious to require repetition on my part."

Within the fourth principle set out by Sir Thomas Bingham, his opinion from the judgment of Lord Justice Waite in *In re D (at p7C)* was also particularly apposite:

"It is now well settled that the implacable hostility of a mother towards access or contact is a factor which is capable, according to the circumstances of each particular case, of supplying a cogent reason for departing from the general principle that a child should grow up in the knowledge of both his parents."

"I see no reason to think that the judge fell into any error of principle in deciding as he clearly did on the plain interpretation of his judgment, that the mother's present attitude towards contact put D at serious risk of major emotional harm if she were to be compelled to accept a degree of contact to the natural father against her will."

Sir Thomas had drawn attention to Lord Justice Waite's reference to a serious risk of emotional harm. He went on:

Hutton v Hall and Another
Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Saville
[Judgment May 2]

A passenger who was being carried as part of a plan agreed with the owner of a motor vehicle was not necessarily a "user" of the vehicle for the purposes of clause of the Motor Insurers' Bureau (Compensation of Victims of Uninsured Drivers) Agreement (1972) and thus unable to claim compensation from the bureau in the event of his sustaining personal injuries when the driver was uninsured.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the second defendant, the Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB), from a decision of Mr Justice Waller that the plaintiff, David Anthony Hutton, who had been a pillion passenger on a motor cycle driven by the first defendant, Mark Hall, on a 10-mile journey to a public house had not been a user of the motor cycle for the purposes of clause 6(1)(c)(ii).

Clause 6 of the MIB Agreement provides: "(i) MIB shall not incur any liability... in a case where... (c) at the time of the accident the person suffering... bodily injury in respect of which the claim is made was allowing himself to be carried in a vehicle and... (ii) being... a person using the

vehicle, he was using or causing or permitting the vehicle to be used without there being in force in relation to such use a contract of insurance as would comply with Part VI of the Road Traffic Act 1972, knowing or having reason to believe that no such contract was in force."

Mr John Crowley, QC and Mr Steven Snowden for the MIB; Mr Peter Heppel, QC, for the plaintiff; the first defendant was not represented and did not appear.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY, giving the judgment of the court, said that it seemed quite clear from the wording of the clause that "user" in the exemption was intended to bear the same meaning as in Part VI of the current consolidated statute, now the Road Traffic Act 1988.

The obligations on the user in relation to insurance cover were found in section 143 which apart from a specific defence available to employee users under subsection (3) created an absolute offence. It was no defence that the user believed there to be an appropriate policy in force.

It was apparent that, while every passenger, in ordinary language "used" the vehicle he was driven in, "use" had to be given a restricted meaning for if it were not very many passengers in cars, cabs and buses had unwittingly but potentially been committing

Court of Appeal

Passenger not user of vehicle

criminal offences in accepting lifts in ignorance of the precise insurance position of the vehicle.

It was also to be noted that the passenger claiming against the MIB was not defeated simply by the finding that he knew that there was no sufficient third party cover in force but only if additionally he was liable as an owner or user for failure to provide that cover.

Mr Crowley submitted that the judge's finding was wrong in law in the light of the terms of the Court of Appeal's decision in *Stinton v Stinton* [1995] RTR 157. He submitted that the authorities subsequent to *Brown v Roberts* [1965] 1 QB 1 introduced the concept of "joint enterprise" into the test.

He went further and submitted that as the plaintiff was on the facts found being carried as part of a plan agreed with the owner, in the instant case to go to a pub for a drink on a motor cycle, so the court was bound by the decision in *Stinton* to find that the plaintiff was a "user".

If that were the correct analysis of that decision it would greatly widen the category of "user" as previously understood. In fact it would make the great majority of passengers users as it had to be considerably more common than not for the passenger to share an agreed common purpose with the driver.

It would be completely at variance with the restricted construction of "user" laid down by Mr Justice Megaw in *Brown v Roberts*, a decision which the Court of Appeal in *Stinton*, of which Sir John Megaw was a member, in no way criticised. The court would not expect that careful judge to allow himself to be reversed by implication: if limiting or qualifying or reversing his earlier view, the court would expect him to do so in terms.

Analysis of Mr Justice Waller's ratio below showed that he too was applying Mr Justice Megaw's test in relation to whether there was a sufficient degree of control or management of the vehicle to make the plaintiff a user of the vehicle. He concluded there was not.

Implicit in that conclusion was his finding that the "joint enterprise" did not involve a sufficient vesting of control or management of the motor-cycle in the pillion passenger to make him a user of the vehicle on that trip.

He considered and distinguished *Stinton*. Fundamentally that distinction was his assumption that not all plans shared between driver and passenger gave the passenger sufficient management of the vehicle to make him a user of the vehicle. That conclusion seemed to be good sense as well as good law.

Solicitors: L. Bingham & Co; Stamp Jackson & Procter, Hull.

Century by Morris sees Glamorgan home

By Pat Gibson

CANTERBURY (Kent won toss): Glamorgan (3pts) beat Kent by eight wickets

HUGH MORRIS, the former England opening batsman, played what Matthew Maynard, his captain, described as the best innings that he had ever seen to send Glamorgan racing into the last eight of the Benson and Hedges Cup yesterday.

Glamorgan had worked out that, to make sure of qualifying, they had to overhaul Kent's total of 208 for nine in 38.4 overs and Morris made it a formality by scoring 136 not out, including 21 fours and a six, as they reached 210 for two in the 33rd over.

The irony of it was that Morris, now 32 and virtually ignored by the England selectors since winning three caps, two of them against West Indies, in 1991, had handed over the captaincy to the more adventurous Maynard this season because he was tired of leading a team that had achieved nothing since winning the Sunday league in 1993.

Now he has led them into the cup quarter-finals for the first time since 1990 and Maynard could not have been more grateful. "Before we went out to bat," he said, "we phoned the office to find out exactly what we had to do to make sure of qualifying with a better run-rate than Kent and then had an open discussion to decide whether we should go for it or just try to win the game and hope that the Somerset-Essex match worked out in our favour."

"We came to the conclusion that there was no point in winning the game and not qualifying, but nobody could have imagined a knock like Hugh's. It was the best I've ever seen, full of quality shots. It was just awesome."

Indeed it was. Glamorgan had as good as won the match

in the first nine overs when Steve Watkin, another of England's forgotten Welshmen, was taking advantage of the early moisture in the pitch to remove Kent's first four batsmen in the space of 21 deliveries at a personal cost of five runs.

The conditions eased later to allow Carl Hooper to fashion some sort of Kent recovery with a high-class 62 before he threw his wicket away in that infuriating way he has by holding out to long-on when it was obvious to everyone but him that his first priority was to bat through the innings.

Even so, it was still asking a lot of Morris and Steve James, his opening partner, to go for their shots from the outset of the innings, but that is precisely what they did. James made 60 off only 70 balls, hitting nine fours, yet he looked almost pedestrian alongside the magnificent Morris.

He sped past his fifty off 38 balls with four successive fours off Fleming, and then he hit three deliveries from McCague for four, six and four, before completing his third century in all competitions this season.

The century had been scored in 84 minutes off 68 balls and included a six and 17 fours.

By the time that James was caught at square leg off Ealham in the 26th over, they had put on 181, beating Glamorgan's record opening partnership in the competition — an unbroken 176 by Alan Jones and John Hopkins at Swansea in 1980.

They were able to cruise in after that. Dale, a century-maker the day before, was out third ball, but Morris and Maynard knocked off the remaining 25 runs inside six overs.

Kent's ample consolation was that they also qualified as runners-up by virtue of winning their previous four games.



John Morris, of Durham, striking out on his way to 145 against Leicestershire

Yorkshire miss their chances

By Michael Henderson

NORTHAMPTON (Yorkshire won toss): Northamptonshire (2pts) beat Yorkshire by seven wickets

BY VIRTUE of this victory, which was achieved with 4.5 overs to spare, Northamptonshire secured a home tie in the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-finals, to be drawn this morning. Capel and Bailey did them proud with a stand of 148 for the second wicket after Yorkshire had yielded runs grudgingly in the opening overs of the innings.

Capel, who has been thrust up the order, made 82, then Hartley, at long-off, held the third chance the batsman offered. Bailey, the new captain, finished with 75 not out and took his third gold award in the group matches. He also held a brilliant catch to dismiss White.

Yorkshire fielded without Moxon, who retired hurt with a bruised right thumb after Ambrose smashed it. Scarcely a season goes by without Moxon suffering a hand injury of some sort, although he returned in the final over of the innings and hit a resounding boundary through extra cover to prove that, however bruised his thumb is, it will not keep him from the crease.

After the early loss of Byas, and Moxon's misfortune, Yorkshire, previously unbeaten in the competition, never gave themselves a chance of sending Northamptonshire a stiff target. Bevan alone got "in", before he fell for 81 to the third of four run-outs.

To win, Northamptonshire had only to bat sensibly, which they did. Silverwood commanded respect and White achieved success when

Montgomerie, shuffling in front of his stumps, was leg-before. Bailey, however, was in a serious mood and Capel, denied shot-making opportunities early on, persevered until the ball came more fully on to his bat. When Silverwood returned at the old football stand end, he was seeing it pretty well and gave it a good crack.

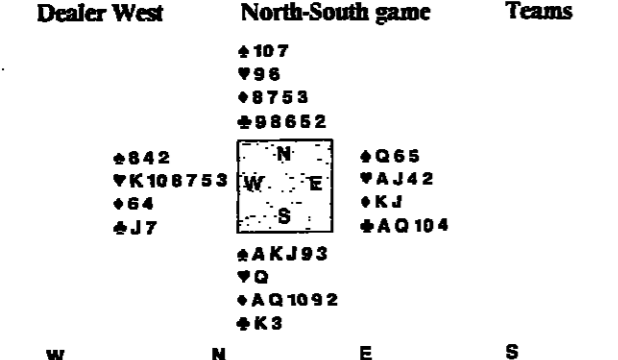
He was reprimanded at mid-off on 23 when Stept, sensing that he had made the catch before the ball was properly in his grasp, dropped it dismally, and again on 81, when Vaughan grassed a skier. Silverwood, the bowler, was entitled to be grumpy about such carelessness. Had the first chance been accepted, Northamptonshire would have been 55 for two and the door half-open. Capel and Bailey shut it firmly.

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP SCOREBOARDS

Table containing cricket scoreboards for various matches including British Universities v Middlesex, Kent v Glamorgan, Derbyshire v Minor Counties, Northampton v Yorkshire, Essex v Somerset, and Surrey v Ireland. Each entry includes team names, scores, and key players.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE advertisement featuring a bridge player and contact information.

By Robert Sheehan, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT. This deal could have been taken straight from a text-book. It occurred in the American Nationals in Atlanta last November.



Contract: Four Spades Doubled, by North. Lead: Seven of hearts.

After a very light weak Two Hearts opening by West, Steve Levy, of Las Vegas, was virtually stampeded into bidding Four Spades on the South cards, albeit not too unwillingly until he saw a virtually useless dummy come down.

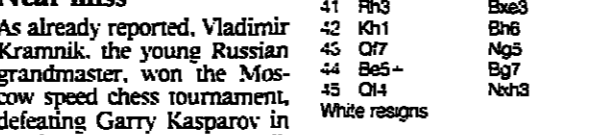
However, although the North hand was one card away from a genuine yarborough, Levy exploited its only asset to the full. The defence led two rounds of hearts, Levy ruffed and returned the jack of spades.

This put East in a dilemma. If he ducks, he allows declarer to exit with ace and ten of diamonds. Whether East plays another heart (which would be ruffed in dummy) or a plain suit, declarer has just enough spades left to draw his opponents' trumps and be able to cross to dummy with his carefully preserved two of diamonds to play a club towards his king.

WORD-WATCHING section with a list of words and their definitions, such as ENDOR, GULISTAN, and BEAUMONTAGUE.

KEENE on CHESS advertisement featuring a chess player and contact information.

By Raymond Keene, CHESS CORRESPONDENT. As already reported, Vladimir Kramnik, the young Russian grandmaster, won the Moscow speed chess tournament, defeating Garry Kasparov in the final.



Short had overlooked, in the final position, that 46. Qh6 is not mate since the black queen can slide back to h7. If Short had played 45. Bxg7+ instead of blundering, then 45... Kh7; 46. Qh6 Rxf7; 47. Rg3 Reg8; 48. a7 leads to a win.

White: Nigel Short. Black: Vladimir Kramnik. Moscow speed chess. April 1996.

Torre Attack. 1. d4 Nf6 2. c3 g6 3. Bg5 Bg7 4. Nc2 O-O 5. e3 Qe8 6. Ng5 e5 7. Be2 e5 8. d4 h6 9. Bh4 Bf5 10. a4 Nc6 11. a5 e4 12. Ne1 Ne7 13. Bg3 Ne7 14. a6 b6 15. Nc2 Bg6 16. Nb4 c5 17. Nc2 Nf6 18. Na3 Rf8 19. Oe3 Qe7 20. Nb5 h5 21. h3 g4 22. Bf4 g4h3 23. g4h3 Nh7 24. Kf2 Qh4 25. Nae4 Nxe4 26. c3d4 Bxe4 27. Bg3 Qe7 28. Bb5 Kh8 29. Racl c5 30. Nc3 Qg5 31. Qa3 Qc5 32. Ba2 Bf5 33. Ah1 Qh6 34. Kg2 Rf8 35. Bg4 Qg6 36. Qe7 Be6

Chess Olympiad. Details have been announced about the organisation of the 32nd World Chess Olympiad in Erevan, Armenia, later this year. This biennial competition is essentially the world championship for national teams. It will run from September 15 to October 2 while the Fide (World Chess Federation) congress, when elections should be held for the post of president, runs from September 24 to October 2.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE section with a chess board diagram and a winning move puzzle by Raymond Keene.

Essex fail despite full force of Law

By Jack Bailey. Essex would have wished to have fielded better while Lathwell moved to 51 from 72 balls before playing on against Grayson, but when Law first stamped his mark on the game by having Shane Lee, his fellow Australian, and then the resolute Richard Harden leg-before, Somerset required some daring hitting from Treaclock, playing as a last minute replacement, and Turner to reach a competitive total.

Treaclock's was the fastest first 50 of the day. His 57 came from only 40 balls. Before long, however, Law was putting all that had gone before in the shade. Sent in to open the innings and seeing the ball well from the start, he punished some indifferent Somerset bowling. Only Caddick looked like containing him as he raced past 50 from 43 balls and scored 50 more from only 33.

In all, Law hit 18 fours and two sixes before being dismissed. Hussain was an admirable foil, staying unbeaten to the end as the evergreen Gooch helped him to polish off a by now thoroughly-dispirited Somerset.

STUART LAW is bedding down very nicely thank you with Essex, his adopted county. Yesterday his 116 from 93 balls, after a couple of vital wickets, demoralised and destroyed Somerset. It was his third century in the space of four days and it enabled Essex to cruise, as past Somerset's 250 for five with more than eight overs to spare.

The pity of it was that victory counted for nothing in terms of further progress in the Benson and Hedges Cup. Glamorgan's comprehensive victory over Kent meant that neither of these teams qualify for the quarter-final. On this form, Essex would have had every chance of winning the trophy.

Only when Mark Lathwell was in cool command at the start of the innings and, later, when Marcus Treaclock and Rob Turner joined forces in an unbroken stand of 99 during the final 11 overs, did Somerset give Essex pause for thought.

Surrey go through with perfect record

SURREY, already through to the last eight of the Benson and Hedges Cup, completed their programme in group D with a 100 per cent record after a comfortable five-wicket victory over Ireland. Neil Doak made an unbeaten 84 to help Ireland to 196 for eight after they had lost their first five wickets for 17, but Surrey won with more than 12 overs to spare. Alec Stewart scored 63.

FINAL GROUP TABLES showing league tables for Groups A, B, C, and D, listing teams, matches played, wins, losses, and points.

Win tickets for Euro 96

TODAY, The Times offers you the chance to win tickets to the biggest sporting event in Britain for 30 years — the Euro 96 European soccer championships.

HOW TO ENTER. For your chance to be part of the biggest footballing event since World Cup fever gripped the nation in 1966 simply collect 10 differently numbered tokens from the 12 which will be printed in The Times until Saturday May 25.

Advertisement for Euro 96 England tokens, including contact information for Midland Bank and details on how to win tickets.

Graf casts doubts aside after defeat by Hingis

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN BERLIN

STEFFI GRAF managed to erase the unhappy memories of the Italian Open tennis tournament yesterday with a straight-sets win over Tara Whitington...

Graf's defeat by Martina Hingis, 15, last week in the quarter-finals in Rome unsettled her. "I have never played so badly and I don't know why..."

Graf is not known for her patience on or off court and, while she can adapt to the technical side of her game to any surface, her mental approach can be a problem...

Muster, who has claimed that the circuit is geared towards Americans, later criticised some who are not competing in Rome...

Hingis, the No 9 seed, also had an easy ride into the next round, cruising past Jelene Watanabe, 6-3, 6-0...

Thomas Muster, defending his Italian Open title, raced into the second round yesterday, defeating Hubert Wiltschnig, his Austrian compatriot, 6-3, 6-3...

Goulding wins battle of scrum halves

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

BOBBIE GOULDING won the latest skirmish in his private battle with Shaun Edwards for the England rugby league scrum half jersey yesterday...

included in Larder's 21-strong squad, in defiance of threats from the ARL to prevent them from playing...

As Wigan returned to playing rugby league opposition last night at Halifax, Maurice Lindsay, the chief executive of the Rugby Football League...

Lindsay said: "We are carrying on with our plans to expand the Super League into Europe, to be ambitious and capitalise on what we are doing..."

Despite the impact of Wigan's defeat of Bath in the first of the cross-code matches and the professional clubs' success in the Middlesex Sevens...

Wigan struggled in the Middlesex Sevens when the ball was on the floor, by naivety as much as anything...

Joe Lydon, Wigan's football executive, will come out of retirement after a year, at 32 years of age, to play against Bath...

Wigan's scrum half, Bobbie Goulding, has scored 11 tries in seven Super League games...

Paul Sculthorpe, 18, a loose forward of rich promise at Warrington, is also included for the first time...

Paul Rowley, of Halifax, and John Lawless, Jackson's successor at Sheffield, will dispute the hooker's role...

Andy Gomersall, one of Wasps' brightest young lights, has been invited to go with the Barbarians on their two-match tour to Japan next month...

Nigel Melville, the former England scrum half and captain, was named yesterday as the new director of rugby at Wasps...

Melville, 35, who was forced by injury to retire from international rugby in 1988, has been directing Otley's rugby affairs...

Andy Gomersall, one of Wasps' brightest young lights, has been invited to go with the Barbarians on their two-match tour to Japan next month...

Melville provides new direction for Wasps

BY DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

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Shackles on forwards open up game

BY DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WITH AN even-handedness that at one time looked unlikely, all three competing countries are represented in the semi-finals of rugby union's inaugural Super 12 tournament...

Natal, fourth in the table, travel to Brisbane, where they will play Queensland on Saturday...

Eden Park ground on Sunday. Away wins have not been unknown in the wetter of representative games...

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Parke in line to challenge Johnson

BY DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SIMON PARKE, who won a world squash team title with England last November before having to undergo treatment for testicular cancer...

His first round opponent in Giza will be Karim El Mistakawa, the little-known Egyptian, but then he should meet Paul Johnson, the England No 6 from Egham...

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Bredin leads

BY DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

EQUESTRIANISM: Jane Bredin and Cupido, Great Britain's leading dressage combination, head the seven riders shortlisted for the Olympic dressage team...

Bredin, who is based near Chippenham in Wiltshire, missed the European championships last year after Cupido sustained a minor leg injury...

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Record entry

BY DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RUGBY LEAGUE: A record 12 countries will compete in the fourth Halifax Student World Cup from August 17 to 31...

England, the host nation, are separated from Australia, the winners in 1989 and 1992, and will meet Scotland, France and Japan in their group matches...

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Fast return

BY DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

TENNIS: Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, 25, of Holland, who has the fastest service in women's tennis, heads the entries for the DFS Classic at Birmingham from June 10 to 16...

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COMPANY GOLF DAYS RESULTS. Includes table with columns for Date, Company Name, Venue, and Score. Sponsors include Mees Pierson, CITROEN, and MARRIOTT.

FOR THE RECORD. YESTERDAY'S RESULTS. HUNTINGDON. 7.10 DELOITTE & TOUCHE. 7.40 HARTLEY'S JAM HANDICAP. 8.10 Q103 FM NOVICES HANDICAP. 8.40 SABLEY NOVICES HANDICAP.

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TODAY'S FIXTURES. FOOTBALL. LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE. PREMIER DIVISION. ENGLISH MIDLAND COMBINATION. SCHOOLS MATCHES. CRICKET. SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP. OTHER SPORT.

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Cecil-trained filly pays handsome tribute to Prickett's Oaks prospects

Magnificent Style shows her paces

By JULIAN MUSCAT

HENRY CECIL would have a vice-like grip on the Oaks were it not for Godolphin. Magnificent Style - the extra "l" is intentional - endorsed her own classic credentials with an authoritative victory in the Tattersalls Musidora Stakes at York yesterday but the outcome spoke forcefully about Prickett, her former stablemate at Warren Place.



Magnificent Style wins the Tattersalls Musidora Stakes yesterday against the background of York's newly opened grandstand

SUE HARD EVANS

Nap: CELERIC (4.40 York) Next best: Dushyantor (3.40 York)

glowing reputation. Cecil pleaded mitigating circumstances for Magnificent Star but the chances are that Prickett is exceptional.

Magnificent Star dominated this 10 1/2-furlong contest from the moment she entered the paddock. A big, rangy filly, she has a stride to match. With Cecil keen to avoid her pulling for her head, as she had at Newmarket, Mick Kinane was instructed to let Magnificent Style set her own pace. She was always a shade too quick for her rivals.

"Different tactics worked today," Cecil said. "The idea at Newmarket was to settle her, but she jumped out of the stalls too quickly." The trainer, who added that the ground was too fast on that occasion, feels Magnificent Star will improve over the 12 furlongs at Epsom. "Prickett is a very

nice filly but mine is much better than she showed when they met at Newmarket."

Among the bookmakers, Coral took Cecil's words at face value, cutting Magnificent Style's Oaks odds to 6-1 from 14-1. But Ladbrokes and William Hill, in shortening Magnificent Style, also cut Prickett. Hills quote her as short as 5-4 favourite.

Cecil advised those impressed by Magnificent Style to hang fire with their Oaks

bets. She will have to be supplemented and Kinane concurred with Cecil that she requires cut in the ground. "She has a lot to learn mentally but she is genuine," the jockey said. "She'd need an easier surface to run at Epsom and she'd acquire herself well in those conditions."

The disappointment of the Musidora was Ruzman, who started a well-backed favourite before toiling home in fourth. Willie Carson offered

no excuses. "She doesn't seem to have thrived since last year," he said.

Another Oaks cut takes place at Newbury on Friday, when Cecil intends to unleash Quota. With Lady Carla having passed her classic mock examination at Lingfield, Cecil has strength in depth in his efforts to usurp Prickett. The alternative option for Magnificent Style is the Ribblesdale Stakes at Royal Ascot.

That venue is on the agenda for Dance Parade, a fluent winner of the EBF Transpennine Express Maiden Stakes on her racecourse debut. This looked an above-average contest and Dance Parade showed admirable resolution to reel in Royal Orchid.

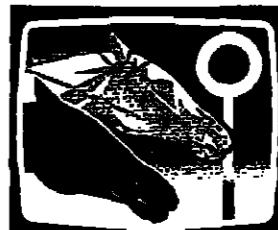
Paul Cole was unhappy that Richard Quinn, his stable jockey, was unable to take the ride because he was stranded in the Jockey Club's London offices. Quinn was detailed to

give evidence at an inquiry but Cole felt the appeal should have taken place on a less important day of racing.

Kinane is another who will miss good rides after he was suspended for two days for using his whip with unreasonable frequency aboard Humourless in the Shepherd Trophy Handicap. To make matters worse for the Irishman, Humourless was overhauled in the last strides by Dornbey.

Dushyantor can press classic claims in Dante

YORK CHANNEL 4



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.35: This is tricky as most of the runners prefer to be held up. Tarawa has won his last two starts, beating Monasieb at Newmarket and Behaviour at Ascot and should confirm the form on similar terms from his favourable low draw. Clan Ben ran his best race when beaten three-quarters of a length by Desert Green at Kempton and remains fairly weighted. However, First Island, beaten less than two lengths in group two company at Sandown 19 days ago, can make his class pay.

3.05: The effect of the draw on the sprint course appears to change season to season, and to confuse matters there is plenty of pace here among horses drawn high and low. On the far side, the back-to-form Ziggy's Dancer, Lago Di Varano and Twice As Sharys like to be at the head of affairs. While near the stalls' rail, Pride Of Brixton has bags of speed as he showed when making all at Chester last week. The Geoff Lewis runner can tee this up for the progressive Royal Dome, a course and distance winner in the next stall, who showed himself to be better than ever on his reappearance.

3.40: The Dante is the best Derby trial by far this season and the winner looks sure to be installed as favourite for Epsom. Nash House has been all the rage in the ante-post exchanges but is a ridiculously short price for what he has achieved. Lord Weinstock's highly regarded colt made a winning debut in

a fast-run maiden at Newbury 25 days ago and, although he is sure to improve, the bare form of that race is nothing exceptional with the runner-up being well beaten by Phantom Quest at Newmarket.

That result should give Henry Cecil some idea of where he stands with Dushyantor, who has been my long-range Derby hope for some weeks. Cecil is becoming increasingly bullish about the prospects for Khaled Abdullah's colt, a half-brother to Commander In Chief, and he can improve sufficiently to underline his Derby credentials. Glory Of Danvers, yet to race on ground this fast, holds a solid form chance.

4.10: Smokey Pete is highly regarded by Richard Hann and justified his tall reputation when making a winning debut at Ascot. The Petong colt overcame becoming unbalanced crossing a path and responded well to pressure to lead inside the final 100 yards. He should be ideally suited by today's extra furlong. Daylight Dreams heads the dangers, having won in a good time at Ripon after a tardy start.

RICHARD EVANS

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 2.00 Rouge Rancou, 2.35 Jewawl, 3.05 Fairy Wind, 3.40 Double Leaf, 4.10 DAYLIGHT DREAMS (nap), 4.40 Midyan Blue.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Kinlochewe. 2.35 FIRST ISLAND (nap). 3.40 Glory Of Dancer.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 2.00 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS MIDDLETON STAKES, 2.35 WILD RUMOUR, 3.05 FAIRY WIND.

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Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 3.05 HOMEDOWNERS SPINT HANDICAP, 2.00 WILD RUMOUR, 2.35 MISS RIVERA.

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Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 4.10 YORKSHIRE-TYNE TEES TELEVISION CONDITIONS STAKES, 2.00 WILD RUMOUR, 2.35 MISS RIVERA.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Odds. Includes 2.00 WILD RUMOUR, 2.35 MISS RIVERA, 3.05 ROUGE RANCOU.

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Advertisement for William Hill featuring 'GOT A CARD? GET A FREE £10 BET' and 'RING TODAY BET TODAY 0800 44 40 40'. Includes a list of horses and odds for various races.

Advertisement for Perth featuring 'PERTH' and '7.55 FAMOUS BROUSE HANDICAP CHASE'. Includes a list of horses and odds.

Advertisement for Hereford featuring 'HEREFORD' and '1.45 WOELEY JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE'. Includes a list of horses and odds.

Advertisement for Hereford featuring 'HEREFORD' and '3.20 ROD CARTER MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE'. Includes a list of horses and odds.

دور السينما

The fatal attraction of volcanic eruptions

The great film critic Dilys Powell was fond of defending the western on the grounds that, visually, cowboys riding across a landscape on a big screen was the purest cinema...

But last night's Consumed by Fire (BBC2) was the visual highlight of the week. Concerning two married French 'volcanologists'...

eruption", which sounded hopeful but it was like those friendships you have sometimes, when you never asked an important question...

Back in the more mundane blue-black world of South Morton and West Morton (gosh, I wish I could remember which is which)...

for bed." Later he jumped out of the bed, as I read a magazine. "Just stay off my patch," I snarled.

On BBC1, Knife to the Heart reached its third week. Quiet, unassuming and unsensational, this history of transplant surgery last night explored the repercussions of a breakthrough...

guinea pig? The issues were complicated. A man in Mississippi received the first heart-lung transplant, and woke up to find he could breathe "better than ever in his life"...



length opener last week with a decent hour of crime detection and lots of hard-boiled lines from which the prefix "I'm warning you" had been silently removed...

CHOICE

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (45931)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (6202)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Coelax and signing) (4491115)
9.20 Style Column: Makeovers (s) (7504776)
9.45 Kilroy (s) (8638318)
10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (26738)
12.00 News (Coelax); regional news and weather (1814486)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (s) (5058318)
12.25 Going for Gold. General knowledge quiz presented by the urbane Henry Kelly (s) (4546738)
1.00 News (Coelax) and weather (88689)
1.30 Regional News and weather (8272612)
1.40 Neighbours (Coelax) (s) (69254825)
2.00 Snowy River - The McGregor Saga. A double bill of adventure set in 19th century Australia (r) (s) (233710) N.I.: The Balmoral Show 2.45 Snowy River - The McGregor Saga
3.30 Playdays (r) (s) (2573757) 3.50 The Silver Brumby (s) (2575737) 4.15 Funnymony (r) (s) (2236486) 4.20 Johnny Briggs (r) (Coelax) (s) (3893550) 4.35 Riverdance (Coelax) (s) (2822227) 5.00 Newsround (Coelax) (7221134) 5.10 Blue Peter (Coelax) (s) (8163641)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Coelax) (859467)
6.00 News (Coelax) and weather (825)
6.30 Regional News magazines (405)
7.00 Small Talk. Game show with Ronnie Corbett (Coelax) (s) (8038)
7.30 Here and Now. Sue Lawley and the team present hard-hitting investigations and up-to-the-minute news features (Coelax) (s) (888)
8.00 Casualty: Only The Lonely. Hospital drama series. Rivalries come to a head at a village rugby match. A couple confront their marital difficulties when their Down's syndrome son has an accident in a swimming pool. Ash takes his personal problems to work and Josh introduces his new partner, with Cole Mantle, Ian Bleasdale, Lisa Coleman and Sarah Cusack (r) (Coelax) (s) (301486)
8.50 Points of View. Viewers air their views on the week's programmes being shown on BBC. (Coelax) (s) (454172)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Coelax); regional news and weather (7573)
9.30 Madson. (5/6) Madson returns to prison to try to help an innocent man serving a sentence for theft. The repercussions of his actions cause concern for his daughter-in-law, Sarah, which in turn moves their relationship a step closer. (Coelax) (s) (178202)
10.20 Spotlighting. Featuring Uefa Cup football action as Bayern Munich meet Borussia in the second leg of the final and boxing from Cardiff. Plus an interview with Alex Ferguson (s) (785912)
11.20 FILM: Excelsior (1981) Lushly but gory retelling of the legend of King Arthur, starring Helen Mirren, Nigel Terry and Nicholas Clay. Directed by John Boorman (Coelax) (43031660)
1.35am Weather (3083055)

- 6.00am Open University: Maths (7186776) 6.25 Elements Organised (7185283) 6.50 Unitarianism (5198776)
7.15 See Hear News (4586244) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (Coelax) (64467) 8.00 Activ-8 (Coelax) (s) (7237950) 8.25 Wishing (r) (5029583) 8.40 The Record (7076225)
9.05 Igi Paris (s) (4498029) 9.25 Job Bank (s) (4401522) 9.45 Words and Pictures (s) (5585873) 10.00 Playdays (r) (s) (2169979) 10.25 NumberTime (s) (2289776) 10.40 Jeunes Franco-phones (s) (5979) N.I.: Uster in Focus 11.20 Cu Chulainn 11.30 Shape of the World (s) (312844) 12.05pm Spanish Collection (s) (7010115)
12.30 Working Lunch (52912) 1.00 The Geography Programme (s) (65935486) 1.20 Zig Zag: An African Country (s) (65939202) 1.45 Come Outside (r) (s) (62743689) 2.00 Wishing (r) (s) (44736009)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (7098196) 3.00 News (Coelax) and weather (781912) 3.15 Westminster (s) (9432321) 3.55 News (Coelax) and weather (893488)
4.00 Today's Day (s) (318) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (202) 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (Coelax) (s) (4491979) 5.40 A Week to Remember: 1958 (b/w) (464498) 5.50 More Secret Gardens: Edge Hill, Gwent (301592)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation: Genesis (Coelax) (s) (506414)
6.45 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century: The Crystals (r) (139825)
7.30 East. A look at the increasing number of young British Asians who are forging traditional Asian music for mainstream pop (Coelax) (s) (931)
8.00 More Rhodes around Britain. (2/6) Chef Gary Rhodes travels to Northampton where he cooks something special in Barnburgh Castle, meets the man who grows the world's biggest leeks and discovers a new recipe for Newcastle Brown Bread (r) (Coelax) (s) (5370)
8.30 Home Front. Tessa Shaw heads for Morocco to discover the best ways of recreating the Moorish look. Plus, tips on how to replace decorative mouldings (Coelax) (s) (4405)
9.00 Modern Times: The Zone. (Coelax) (s) (184202)
9.50 Postcards from the Country: Shetland - Island Living (2/6) (Coelax) (s) (1970228)
10.30 Newsnight (Coelax) (723136)
11.15 Murder One: Chapter Eleven. Hoffman and Grasso continue their search for jurors (r) (s) (348889)
12.00 The Midnight Hour (s) (52142)
12.30am The Learning Zone (31790)

- Small Talk (BBC1) 7.00pm British education standards are on the line as a bunch of youngsters, aged between six and nine, are asked to name the capital of France. First up is Delphine. "Germany," she replies. It can only get better and besides this is not one of Gillian Shepherd's national curriculum tests but a cheerful little game show, presided over by cheerful little Ronnie Corbett. But whether trying to name France's capital, or revealing whether they have been kissed by a girlfriend/boyfriend, the children are the stars. They should be competing for the dream holiday, not the grown-ups who have to guess which way the youthful answers will go. University Challenge it is not, but it may deny these tots their fun. One day they might be students and back on television to face a rotweiler from Jeremy Paxman.
Modern Times: The Zone (BBC2) 9.00pm Here is a documentary from the former Yugoslavia that is not primarily about fighting and death. Daniel Reed's film is set in the Zone of Separation between the Serbian Serb Republic and the Muslim-Croatian federation. This vast area, 25 miles wide, of battlefields, abandoned towns and shattered villages, is patrolled mainly by Russian and American soldiers. It is the first instance of such co-operation since the end of the Second World War and Reed brings out the cultural differences between the two nationalities during the worst winter in the region for 30 years. The film is most moving through the mud and snow, the Russians practise their goosesteps, and both sides are cynical about the peace lasting beyond their withdrawal in December.
Dispatches Channel 4, 9.00pm The current affairs series boasts a television first by giving a teacher to go undercover in her own school: to reveal the level of aggression and violence. She shows how teaching often comes second to a daily battle against aggressive behaviour and her report from a school by no means at the bottom of the league tables. Features incidents with a knife and gun. The programme cites a survey among 20,000 schoolchildren, which discloses that a significant number take weapons into school because they feel the need to defend themselves. A boy who claims that guns can be easily acquired by children says: "You can't just stand there and let other people take liberties with you." Highlighting the problem is easier that solving it, but a college principal from the North East describes his attempts to reduce violence in the classroom.
Postcards From the Country (BBC2) 9.30pm Richard Mabey's exploration of the changing face of rural Britain takes him to the extreme northern tip. As far from Edinburgh as the Scottish capital is from London, Shetland may not be remote but its labyrinth of islets have not been immune from outside forces. The herring industry used to be king, until the Scandinavians came along with their bigger boats and superior technology. The Sulton Voe oil terminal brought in money and created badly-needed jobs but was a big upheaval for a traditional way of life. But Mabey's film is a celebration of things that have endured, such as Shetland's rich variety of seabirds, as well as activities such as crofting that are in probably terminal decline. But despite the incursions of the 20th century Shetland still has road signs which give warning of 'Otters Crossing'. Peter Waymark

- 6.00am GMTV (2767478)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (s) (7589467)
9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (2146028)
10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (65481405)
10.35 This Morning (50813399)
12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (1803370)
12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (4565863)
12.55 Shortland Street (s) (40554) 1.25 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (1866405) 2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (19724931)
2.25 FILM: Rich Men, Single Women (1994) Romantic comedy starring Suzanne Somers, Heather Locklear and Deborah Adair. Three women set out to prove that it is easier to marry for money than love. Concludes tomorrow. Directed by Elliott Silverstein (7004757)
3.20 News headlines (Teletext) (7858202)
3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (7857573)
3.30 Alphabet Castle (r) (s) (8363683) 3.40 Wizardia (r) (s) (1295554) 3.50 Brit Allcroft's Magic Adventures of Mumfie (436 (r) (s) (8349) 4.05 Garfield and Friends (556738) 4.10 Adventures of Captain Zealig (s) (6985196) 4.40 SpellBinder (Teletext) (s) (2243318)
5.10 A Country Practice (s) (8723115)
5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (108318)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (s) (84912)
6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (813115)
7.00 Wish You Were Here...? Featuring reports from the Seychelles, Dresden and Florida (Teletext) (s) (3776)
8.00 Sharp: Sharpe's Mission. The last of three stories about the maverick British officer. Sharpe joins a dashing colonel on a mission to destroy a gunpowder store behind French lines (Teletext) (s) (4592)
10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (39196)
10.30 Regional News (Teletext) (948028)
10.40 Short Story Cinema (745467)
11.10 Euro 96 Countdown. Bob Wilson and a star-studded panel face a live audience in Manchester. Among the guests are Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson and Liverpool and England's John Barnes (55979)
12.10 ITV Sport Classics (4716158) 12.40 God's Gift (8668887) 1.40 Dear Nick (1056603) 2.40 Bushell on the Box (r) (s) (3207603)
3.10 FILM: This Other Eden (1959, b/w) Comedy starring Miro O'Shea, Leslie Phillips and Audrey Dalton Directed by Muriel Box (8073867)
4.30 The Time... the Place (r) (s) (87413)
5.00 Cover Story (s) (35516)
5.30 Morning News (57697)

- As HTV WEST except:
6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight (813115)
10.40-11.10 Something Strange (75467)
WESTCOUNTRY
As HTV West except:
12.25-12.30 My Story (1828698)
12.55 Coronation Street (4540554)
1.25-1.55 Cross Wits (31213757)
1.55 Home and Away (36588370)
2.25 Brief Encounters (19734318)
2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (6591202)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9723115)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (74757)
10.40 Special Report (745467)
11.10-11.40 The Westcountry Match (305399)
CENTRAL
As HTV West except:
1.25 Home and Away (4540554)
1.25 Cross Wits (31213757)
1.55 A Country Practice (69286028)
2.20 Right or Wrong (19735047)
2.50-3.20 Our House (2359047)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9723115)
6.25-7.00 Central News (813115)
10.40 Euro 96 Countdown (923009)
11.40 Central Sports Special (706688)
12.40am Bushell on the Box (3447061)
1.20 Dear Nick (9017264)
3.05 In Focus (2194264)
3.50 Jobfinder (2973887)
5.20 Asian Eye (3057516)
MERIDIAN
As HTV West except:
12.55pm Coronation Street (4540554)
1.25 Home and Away (31213757)
1.55 Shortland Street (69286028)
2.20 Murder, She Wrote (7005466)
3.15-3.20 Three Minutes - Making It Happen (7869689)
5.10 Home and Away (9723115)
5.37-5.40 Three Minutes - Freescan (383573)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (221)
6.30-7.00 Animal Country (573)
10.40 The Road Show (745467)
11.10-11.40 The Meridian Match (305399)
5.00am Freescan (355516)
S4C
Starts: 6.35 Sharky and George (5102979)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (69912) 9.00 The Golden Girls (49573) 9.30 Ysgollon: Le Petit Monde de Pierre (5655486) 9.45 Book Box (5655486) 10.00 Stage Two Sciences (2262009) 10.15 Equinox Plus (4980318) 11.10 Schools at Work (4142757) 11.15 The Mix (9330889) 11.30 Rat-a-tat-tat (7859370) 11.45 The Score (7854825) 12.00 House to House (36008) 12.30pm Wowser (57080) 1.00 Sies Melhryn (78399) 1.20 Barbershop (3950121) 1.55 Australia Wild (9358812) 2.25 Channel 4 Racing from York (12146706) 4.30 Classic Trucks (370) 5.00 5 Pump: Cefallag (6296488) 5.15 5 Pump: Feil (723979) 5.30 Fifteen to One (950) 6.00 Newyddion (780234) 6.15 Heno (652979) 7.00 Pabod Y Cwm (859850) 7.25 Portoriedad: Cymru (191825) 8.00 Hawell (773) 8.30 Newyddion (9573) 9.00 Encounters: Explorers of the Titanic (8554) 10.00 Brookside (3773) 10.30 E.R. (62863) 11.30 Cybill (51405) 12.00 Get Netted (4446535) 12.05am Nightsports (7048351)

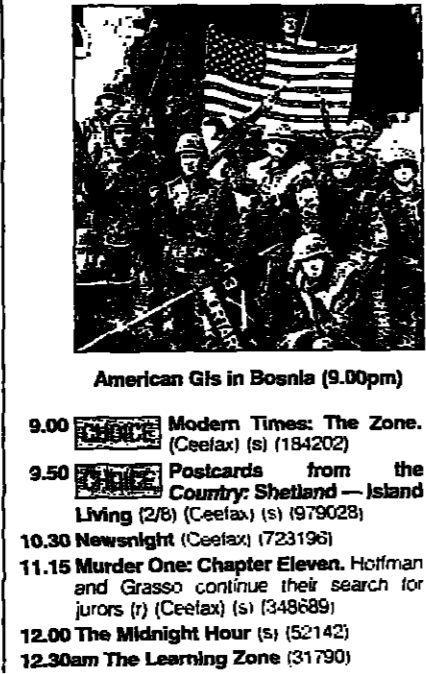
- 6.35am Sharky and George (r) (5102979)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (69912)
9.00 The Golden Girls (r) (Teletext) (s) (49573)
9.30 Schools: Le Petit Monde de Pierre (5655486) 9.45 Book Box (5655486) 10.00 Stage Two Sciences (2262009) 10.15 Equinox Plus (4980318) 11.10 School at Work (4142757) 11.15 The Mix (9330889) 11.30 Rat-a-tat-tat (7859370) 11.45 The Score (7854825)
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12.30pm Sesame Street (r) (71863) 1.30 Madeline (r) (3950121)
1.55 Australia Wild (9358812)
2.25 Channel 4 Racing from York (s) (12146706)
4.30 Fifteen to One (Teletext) (s) (370) 5.00 Rick Lake (Teletext) (s) (1812776) 5.45 Terryloons (472405)
6.00 Blossom (r) (Teletext) (s) (645554)
6.25 Home Improvement (Teletext) (s) (645573)
6.55 Murrin Buchstansangur (424689)
7.00 Channel 4 News (931370)
7.55 Get Netted. Medusa, online editor at Skin Two magazine, has turned her obsession for fetish fashion into her profession, setting up the world's largest fetish website (Teletext) (s) (274931)
8.00 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (7738)
8.30 Scrippsers. Ray Brooks and Rick Ball tour Brian meeting people who are champions at saving money through ingenious means (1/4) (r) (Teletext) (s) (9573)
9.00 CHOICE Dispatches. A report on intolerance in the classroom (468776)
9.45 Four Nations: Great British Animation from More Dead Time Stories comes Deadly and The Sex-O Orange-O, a post-Holocaust comedy by David Anderson, writer and narrated by Russell Hoban, followed by The Door also by David Anderson (r) (27125)



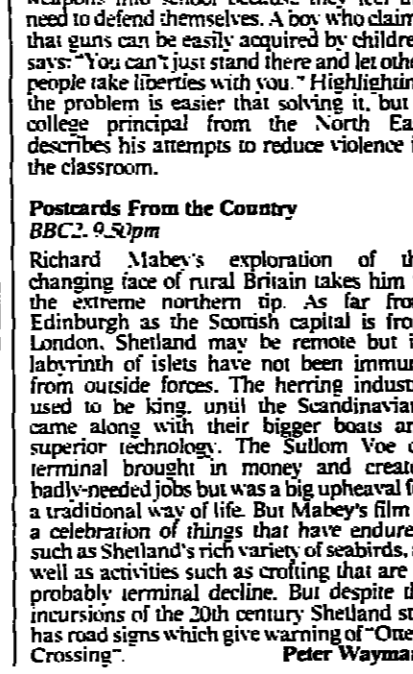
Sherry Stringfield as Dr Lewis (10pm)

- 10.00 ER: Fevers of Unknown Origin. Both Gabe and Roz have romantic adventures with the women in their lives. Benton learns the effects of his letter about a fraudulent study. Dr Lewis seeks solace in her work (Teletext) (s) (1641)
11.00 Friends. Rachel meets up with her former fiancé and Chandler agonises over a woman who doesn't call him after a first date (r) (Teletext) (s) (2028)
11.30 Cheers. When Sam stands up to Nick Tortelli, Nick decides to get his own back by putting Diane under his 'spell' (r) (Teletext) (s) (307592)
12.05am Nightsports. the through-the-night sports league. Includes live coverage of Major League baseball as Pittsburgh Pirates visit the Atlanta Braves (7048351). Ends 6.00am

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers on the TV programme listings are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ remote control.



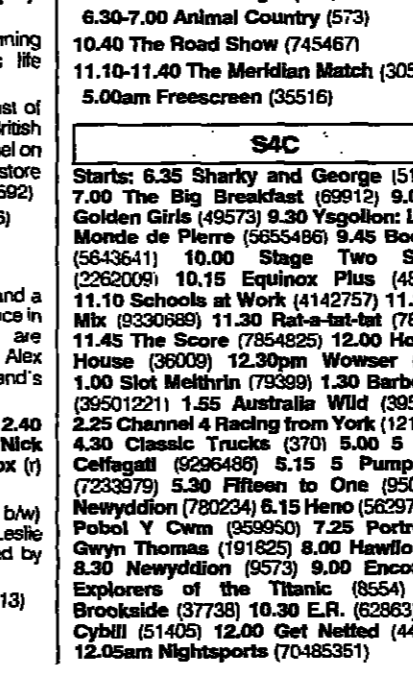
American GIs in Bosnia (9.00pm)



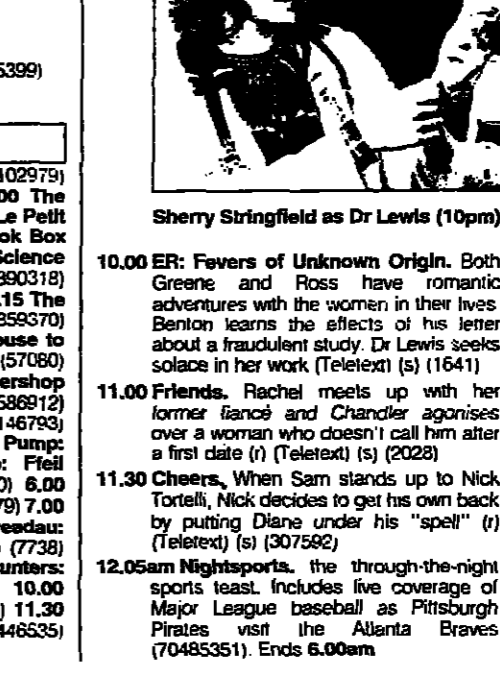
Billy organises a singsong (7.30pm)



Coronation Street. Des Barnes is writing and dining the new lady in his life (Teletext) (757)



Sharp: Sharpe's Mission. The last of three stories about the maverick British officer. Sharpe joins a dashing colonel on a mission to destroy a gunpowder store behind French lines (Teletext) (s) (4592)



Diane Wynyard and Anton Walbrook in Gaslight (TNT, 7pm)

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday
SKY ONE
7.00am Under (23118) 9.00 Press Your Luck (62638) 9.30 Love Connection (81950) 9.45 The Quiz Winery Show (469250) 10.00 Jeopardy (563315) 11.10 Sally Jessy Raphael (301776) 12.00 Beauty (25211) 1.00 The Quiz Winery Show (469250) 2.00 The Quiz Winery Show (323270) 4.40 Under (488988) 6.00 Star Trek: Voyager (8730) 6.30 L.A.P.D. (1196) 7.30 M*A*S*H (8430) 8.00 Space Action and Beyond (47939) 8.30 The Quiz Winery Show (469250) 9.00 Star Trek: Voyager (8730) 10.00 Star Trek: Voyager (8730) 11.00 M*A*S*H (8430) 12.00 Star Trek: Voyager (8730)
SKY NEWS
News on the hour
7.00am News (88776) 10.30 ABC Nightline News (69455) 1.30pm CBS News (2550) 2.30 Parliament Live (4394) 3.30 Parliament Live (4394) 4.30 News (88776) 7.00 News (88776) 7.30 News (88776) 8.00 News (88776) 8.30 News (88776) 9.00 News (88776) 9.30 News (88776) 10.00 News (88776) 10.30 News (88776) 11.00 News (88776) 11.30 News (88776) 12.00 News (88776)
SKY MOVIES
6.00am The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938) (2931) 8.00 Meet the People (1944) (7020) 10.00 King Me (1944) (8231) 12.00 The Courtship of Miles Hendon (1951) (1658) 2.45 The Courtship of Miles Hendon (1951) (1658) 5.15 The Courtship of Miles Hendon (1951) (1658) 7.30 The Courtship of Miles Hendon (1951) (1658) 9.55 The Courtship of Miles Hendon (1951) (1658) 12.00 The Courtship of Miles Hendon (1951) (1658)
THE DISNEY CHANNEL
Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm
8.00am Muppet Babies (8246008) 8.30 Ducktales (3806776) 7.00 Ducktales (3806776) 8.00 Ducktales (3806776) 9.00 Ducktales (3806776) 10.00 Ducktales (3806776) 11.00 Ducktales (3806776) 12.00 Ducktales (3806776)
THE HISTORY CHANNEL
4.00pm The Great Days of the Century
7.00pm The History Channel
THE SCI-FI CHANNEL
7.00pm The History Channel
TLC
9.00am Simply Parenting (1699047) 9.30 Grow with Joe (741307) 10.00 Dogs with 27 (542) 10.30 Dogs with 27 (542) 11.00 Dogs with 27 (542) 11.30 Dogs with 27 (542) 12.00 Dogs with 27 (542)
SKY SOAP
7.00am Jeopardy Live (832747) 7.35 The World's Funniest Home Videos (832747) 8.00 Jeopardy Live (832747) 8.30 Jeopardy Live (832747) 9.00 Jeopardy Live (832747) 9.30 Jeopardy Live (832747) 10.00 Jeopardy Live (832747) 10.30 Jeopardy Live (832747) 11.00 Jeopardy Live (832747) 11.30 Jeopardy Live (832747) 12.00 Jeopardy Live (832747)
SKY TRAVEL
11.00am Globe Trekker (616912) 11.30 Destinations (616912) 12.00 Destinations (616912) 12.30 Destinations (616912) 1.00 Destinations (616912) 1.30 Destinations (616912) 2.00 Destinations (616912) 2.30 Destinations (616912) 3.00 Destinations (616912) 3.30 Destinations (616912) 4.00 Destinations (616912) 4.30 Destinations (616912) 5.00 Destinations (616912) 5.30 Destinations (616912) 6.00 Destinations (616912) 6.30 Destinations (616912) 7.00 Destinations (616912) 7.30 Destinations (616912) 8.00 Destinations (616912) 8.30 Destinations (616912) 9.00 Destinations (616912) 9.30 Destinations (616912) 10.00 Destinations (616912) 10.30 Destinations (616912) 11.00 Destinations (616912) 11.30 Destinations (616912) 12.00 Destinations (616912)
EUROSPORT
7.00am Soccer (2121) 8.30 Football (96550) 11.00 Football (96550) 12.00 Football (96550)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
4.00pm Carbine (1938) (579455) 5.25 The Big Country (1958) (631919) 8.10 The Big Easy (1987) (2869757) 10.00 Path of Fury (1989) (945820) 11.40 The Untouchables (1989) (64495) 13.00am-2.00am Will Penny (1988) (63617)
THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am The Last of the Mohicans (147456) 6.25 The Treasure of Swamp Castle (1987) (537221) 8.20 Sheriff of Hellas (1987) (537221) 10.00 Sheriff of Hellas (1987) (537221) 12.00 Sheriff of Hellas (1987) (537221)
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SPORT

WEDNESDAY MAY 15 1996

RUGBY LEAGUE 48 ENGLAND PLACE FAITH IN GOULDING'S DAZZLING FORM

Warwickshire's run halted

Lloyd inspires Lancashire to late triumph

By IVO TENNANT

OLD TRAFFORD (Warwickshire won toss): Lancashire (2pts) beat Warwickshire by one wicket

WARWICKSHIRE had won every match that they had contested this season, barring one that was ruined by rain. There was little doubting, until the closing overs yesterday, that they had the beating of Lancashire, too, in a Benson and Hedges Cup match to determine which county would have a home draw in the quarter-finals. Somehow, they managed to lose it.

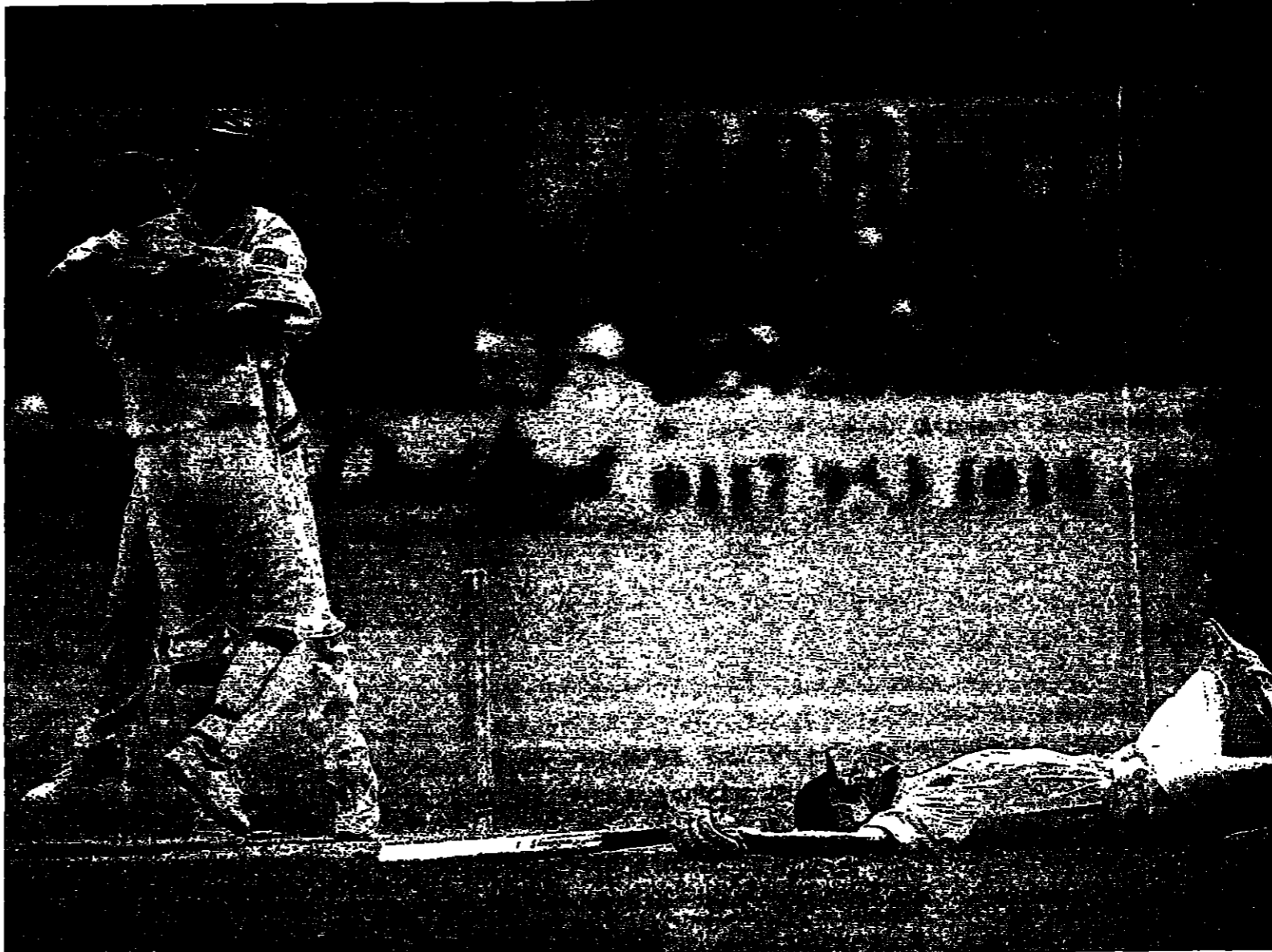
extent, this came off. They had put on 50 by the seventh over, the disparity in their techniques no disadvantage in this form of the game. The shuffling of the batting order continued when Austin was sent in at No 4, which meant that only 17 overs remained when Fairbrother came to the wicket with all too little time to smell the roses. A tactical error, it seemed at the time.

Glamorgan race through 47 Scoreboards and tables 47

Yet everybody played a part. Atherton was out to a one-day shot, an attempted steer of a straight ball to third man, which was what he had to try in the circumstances. Watkinson was held by the straighter of two short mid-wickets that Reeve had astutely placed for him, and him alone. Austin was beaten by Neil Smith's first ball.

stage. There followed the most elegant batting of the day, Crawley increasingly reminiscent of Ken McEwan in the way that he stands at the crease and finds the gaps with a languid certainty. He added 95 in 18 overs with Gallian. When they were together, Lancashire could indeed countenance victory.

Warwickshire's excellence in the field seemed to put paid to that. Reeve likes to position himself closer to the bat than most extra-cover fieldsmen, and it was there that he held a mistimed cover drive by Crawley. Ten runs later, Gallian was brilliantly held low down by Brown at deep square leg off the same bowler, Welch. The best catch of all came when Paul Smith plucked one down at mid-wicket to account for Chapple. That seemed to be that. Lancashire's strength in limited-overs cricket, however, is their depth in batting. It was the case when they were winning the Gillette Cup in the 1970s. Hegg, Yates and Chapple all contributed and Martin, the last man in, is a good enough batsman to have scored a first-class century. From the last six overs, Lancashire needed 46, then 22 off three and 17 from the last two.



Hancock, who was later to exert a vital influence with the ball, is run out by a throw from Stephenson, the Hampshire captain

Hancock's brief spell of magic decisive

By ALAN LEE CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

BRISTOL (Hampshire won toss): Gloucestershire (2pts) beat Hampshire by 21 runs

CRICKET played like this can simultaneously baffle, enthral and depress. A considerable crowd at Nevil Road was excited by constant fluctuations and cheered by the victory that secured a Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final for Gloucestershire, but a detached analysis was enough to find the standards in domestic one-day cricket.

Hampshire will be painfully aware that they could have won this tie — effectively an eliminator — but for some cavalier batting when only pragmatism was required. Gloucestershire, equally, must concede that they had earlier squandered an ideal platform for their innings with some curiously frenetic batting that against stronger

opposition, would have been ruinous.

After so much that was misguided or misapplied, it was perhaps appropriate that the game turned on the introduction of Tim Hancock for a rare bowl. Hancock, called into action only through an injury sustained in the field by Kevin Cooper, took three wickets for two in his first two overs of seamers as Hampshire, who had required less than a run a ball with six wickets in hand, fell messily on their sword.

No one was more culpable than Winston Benjamin, for no one had been so obviously capable of winning the game. Promoted to No 5, he used a blend of savagery and sophistication to put Hampshire in charge for the first time. He had made 43 from 36 balls and believed the force was with him. Rather than take singles, with the field deep set, he tried to hit Hancock out of the ground and was caught at long-off. Hampshire's momentum

was thus punctured and, as Stephenson and Whitaker fell under Hancock's spell, Gloucestershire never again looked seriously at risk. The book-making firm who offered them at 80-1 for this competition only last week may have winced but nobody there need suffer too many sleepless nights unless Gloucestershire sharpen up aspects of their game before the quarter-finals.

Wright and Dawson played confidently through the first hour after being put in by Hampshire. At 65 without loss, in the fourteenth over, they could think positively of 300.

In consecutive overs, however, the openers were dismissed. Hancock was then run out by a direct hit from Stephenson, at mid-on and Symonds drilled Maru to Morris at extra cover.

Hampshire were now ahead on points, but Cumliffe and Alleyne wrested back the initiative with a stand of 113 in 15 overs, much the best batting of the game.

Both were out in the final flurry, Cumliffe having validated the many high opinions of him in these parts while Alleyne, whose 75 occupied only 53 balls, reiterated the silky quality of his strokeplay. Gloucestershire now had an imposing total.

Gloucestershire's seamers dropped short too often on a pitch where there was scant margin for error and Hampshire reached 113-4 when the first over of spin shifted the balance once more. Davis first had Morris smoothly stumped, then induced a stiff push to mid-on from Smith.

While James, who showed the benefit of three second-team centuries, and Benjamin were together, Hampshire remained on course. They were blown off it not by remarkable bowling or fielding but by their own flawed instincts.

SCOREBOARD FROM BRISTOL

Table with 2 columns: Gloucestershire and Hampshire. Lists players and their scores/overs. Gloucestershire: A J Wright 10w b James 31, R I Dawson c Benjamin b Maru 33, R J Currie b Benjamin 73, H C Hancock run out 10, A Symonds c Morris b Maru 28, C A Walsh c James b Whitaker 6, M W Alleyne b J Corner 75, R C Russell run out 8, R P Davis b Corner 8, A M Smith not out 0. Extras (lb 3, w 3, nb 2) 8. Total (49.2 overs) 272. Hampshire: R S M Morris at Russell b Davis 39, J S Lacey c Walsh b Cooper 24, K D James run out 36, R A Smith c Alleyne b Davis 1, W K M Benjamin c Smith b Hancock 49, J P Stephenson c Wright b Hancock 7, P R Whitaker c Davis b Hancock 32, P M Wynne run out 17, S D Udd c Symonds b Smith 32, C A Connor c Davis b Walsh 1, R J Mann not out 6. Extras (lb 3, w 6) 9. Total (49.2 overs) 251.

OLD TRAFFORD SCOREBOARD

Table with 2 columns: Warwickshire and Lancashire. Lists players and their scores/overs. Warwickshire: N V Knight c Fairbrother b Martin 47, N M K Smith c Atherton b Yates 17, P A Smith c Gallian b Chapple 17, D P Ollier c Atherton b Yates 21, T J Parry c and b Martin 34, D A Reeve at Hegg b Yates 27, S M Pollock not out 39, D R Brown not out 33, Extras (lb 11, w 4, nb 8) 23. Total (16 wds, 50 overs) 312. Lancashire: M A Atherton b G Giles 15, M Watkinson c Reeve b Pollock 37, J E R Gallian c Brown b Welch 18, I D Austin b N M K Smith 18, J P Crawley c Reeve b Welch 47, G D Fairbrother c Reeve b N K Smith 12, G D Lloyd not out 83, H W K Hegg b Reeve 10, G Yates at Foster b Reeve 13, G Chapple c P A Smith b Reeve 8, P J Martin not out 29. Extras (lb 2, w 8, nb 15, nb 4) 29. Total (9 wds, 49.5 overs) 316.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-21. Below the grid is the number 'No 782'.

Crossword solutions. ACROSS: 3 Relieved of weapons, suspicions (8), 7 Unelected administrative body (6), 8 Unhealthy pale; a willow (6), 9 Negligent (6), 10 Tastelessly bright (6), 11 Embankment; ditch (4), 13 Play; emotional situation (5), 15 Genuine; old Spanish coin (4), 17 Curly salad plant (6), 18 "Flower" plucked out of the nettle danger (Hen. IV/1) (6), 19 Without effect; ostentatiously (6). SOLUTION TO NO 781: ACROSS: 6 Believe you me 7 Divide 8 Turban 9 Belt 10 Decimate 12 Cherubic 16 Kite 18 Profit 20 Regale 21 Black economy. DOWN: 1 Cloister 2 Behold 3 Hectic 4 Dour 5 Impart 6 Beige 11 Make good 13 Herald 14 Butler 15 Cordan 17 Tally 19 Face. SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 777: ACROSS: 6 Statute 7 Tulip 9 Cinema 10 Sanctum 11 Business end 14 Iron curtain 17 Dead end 19 Wedge 21 Recur 22 Arraign. DOWN: 1 Gain 2 Jurassic 3 Season 4 Stun 5 Slattern 6 Sick 8 Pinnacle 11 Buoyancy 12 Star Wars 13 Plunder 15 Red rag 16 Fern 18 Eyre 20 Dais.

Emerson moves to Robson's beat



Emerson: asset

THE BRAZILIAN rhythms will be even stronger at Middlesbrough next season. The FA Carling Premiership club yesterday paid FC Porto £4 million for Emerson, the mid-field player, to link up with Juninho and Branco. "He's competitive, he wants to win, he's strong, he can tackle, he's a great passer and he can dictate the pace," Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, said. "Bobby [Robson, the Porto manager] is supposed to have said that Emerson reminds him of me." Emerson, who holds a Portuguese passport, was greeted by 500 supporters when he arrived on Teesside to his billing. Emerson will be a formidable asset for Middlesbrough alongside his fellow Brazilians. "The demands of the English game won't bother him," Robson said. "Some judges say that he's similar to Paul Ince. He's strong and he links well. What is without doubt is that he's another piece of the jigsaw here."

Griffiths decides to bow out at top

TERRY GRIFFITHS, the winner of the Embassy world championship at his first attempt in 1979, and a member of snooker's elite top 16 ever since, yesterday announced his retirement from competition at the age of 48. Griffiths, from Wales, is a director of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association, the game's governing body, and with his recent appointment as its director of coaching he has found himself increasingly stretched. However, it is primarily dignity, pride of performance and the realisation that he is a player in decline, which have led Griffiths to leave the competitive arena. "Playing badly and not doing myself justice is not my idea of how I should finish," Griffiths said. He made the decision during a week of soul-searching after the world championship earlier this month. It is the first time in the modern era that a former

Phil Yates celebrates the career of a player who holds a unique place in snooker history

champion has packed away his cue while still occupying a relatively lofty position in the world rankings. Griffiths stands 23rd on the list for next season and, as a member of the seeded top 32 players on the circuit, was guaranteed total prize-money of £21,215 without putting a ball. He turned professional at the age of 30 in 1978, after twice winning the English amateur championship, but experienced a demoralising introduction. On his professional debut, he lost 9-8 to Rex Williams in a preliminary round of the United Kingdom championship after being 6-2 ahead. Five months later, at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, Griffiths beat Perrie Mans, Alex Higgins, Charlieton and Dennis Taylor to become the first and still the only player

to capture the world title in his rookie season. The ex-apprentice blacksmith, postman, insurance agent and bus conductor went on to win the Benson and Hedges Masters in 1980, the Irish Masters in 1980, 1981 and 1982, the year in which he also won the United Kingdom championship. The arrival of Steve Davis on the snooker scene, however, prevented him from developing into a dominant force. Ironically, their second-round meeting at the Crucible this year, which Davis won 13-8, could be the last match that Griffiths plays at a venue with which he will always be linked. Ever the technician, Griffiths, who edged out Jamie Burnett 10-9 on the black in the previous round, analysed both contests on video afterwards and was not impressed, by what he saw. "My standard was poor; it's good that I am finishing," he said, with characteristic realism. Griffiths has, however, left his options open with regard to participating in the 1997 world championship. He has the summer to decide whether to sever all competitive ties. There are many in snooker who hope that he does not.



Griffiths: coaching role

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